

## Eight held in coach bomb inquiry as Thatcher agrees terror crackdown

# Tough moves to counter IRA violence

● The Government's counter offensive against the IRA was signalled yesterday after talks held by Mrs Thatcher at No 10 Downing Street

● The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Tom King, said afterwards that "certain measures" would become apparent in a very short time

● In Northern Ireland eight men were arrested for questioning in connection with the bomb which killed eight soldiers in a coach last weekend

● Mr King earlier said that the latest upsurge in IRA violence had been made possible by the supply of explosives and weapons by Colonel Gaddafi of Libya

By Richard Ford, Michael Evans, Ronald Faux and David Sapsted

Tough new security measures approved by Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday and dawn arrests of eight men in Northern Ireland signalled a counter offensive against the Provisional IRA.

The men were held for questioning about "serious terrorist crimes" at Gough Barracks, Co Armagh, by Special Branch officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The officers are investigating the coach bomb explosion which killed eight soldiers of the Light Infantry and injured 27 on the road to Omagh last Saturday. The men arrested came from the Omagh area.

Senior police sources in the province admitted that the

Army bus bombing would form the central theme of the interrogations. Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the police have seven days in which they can question the men.

At No 10, after a two-hour meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, it was disclosed that a number of security measures had been agreed. Mr

King said certain measures would become apparent soon. Although no details were given, it is believed that

interviews has still been ruled out. Mrs Thatcher has also been advised against sending more troops. "More troops means more targets for the IRA", one source said.

Some of the tactics agreed between Mrs Thatcher and Mr King will remain secret while detailed work continues on other measures put forward during exhaustive discussions at Downing Street.

After the meeting Mr King said that the Government faced "a serious vicious terrorist challenge" which would be met.

Last night the IRA issued what was described by security sources as a "hypocritical" statement, saying that in future car bombs would be equipped with a warning smoke grenade that would explode shortly after the bomb had been parked to serve as a warning to people to clear the area.

Army and police sources denounced the statement as a "disgraceful piece of cynicism." One source said: "Whatever they say, they are talking about murder."

As Mr King was preparing to meet Mrs Thatcher, he blamed the latest upsurge in Provisional IRA violence on the support for the terrorists from Colonel Gaddafi of Libya.

Mr King said the violence had been made worse "by the support of Colonel Gaddafi and the substantial weapons and explosives that he has made available to this Marxist revolutionary terrorist group".

Four boatloads of armaments, including surface-to-air missiles, from Libya are suspected of having been smuggled into the Irish Republic for use by the Provisional IRA.

Mr King added: "I think that the injection by Colonel Gaddafi of more powerful explosives and additional weapons have given some people the idea that somehow violence can actually win".

Mr King said certain decisions had been reached while some required further discussion. "I have to say on the matters under discussion, that matters have been resolved and some of them will become apparent shortly in various particular ways but in other respects I am not at liberty to go into them in detail".

Mr King added: "Nobody should doubt the commitment of the Prime Minister, the Government and myself to ensure that in the interests of the people of Northern Ireland, and of the people of the UK and indeed in the world where we all have an interest in the defeat of terrorism, what needs to be done will be done".

Mr King, who will have further meetings with the Prime Minister on the review of security, said the Government was in close contact with the Irish Republic's Government on a number of matters. He emphasized the importance of co-operation in the fight against terrorism. Meanwhile, Labour urged the Government to put pressure on the Czech authorities to cut off the supply of Semtex explosive to Libya which supplies the Provisional IRA. Mr

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Crackdown on terror: Mr King addressing newsmen outside No 10 after the strategy against the IRA had been reviewed (Photograph: James Gray).

## Lost Piper Alpha oil production is costing firms about £3m a day

By Kerry Gill and Colin Narborough

The loss of oil production caused by the Piper Alpha rig disaster last month is costing the companies involved £3 million a day, according to analysts at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Their estimates, published today, show oil output falling to stage its usual July recovery, mainly due to the impact of the rig explosion on July 6 and the shutdowns it triggered.

The analysts expect even worse figures for this month, as it would be the first full month with no output from the six fields affected by the catastrophe in which 167 men were killed.

The Royal Bank of Scotland said last month's oil production was more than 200,000 barrels a day below forecasts, representing a daily revenue loss of about £3 million.

Lawyers acting for survivors and relatives of the victims of the Piper Alpha disaster yesterday reached agreement with the Occidental oil company for compensation between the level likely to be awarded in Britain and the larger sums usually won in the United States.

It estimates the daily value of North Sea oil production at £18.8 million in July, only £600,000 better than June, the main month for maintenance activity. In July last year, the daily value was £30.7 million. Although its output index shows a 4.3 per cent rise on June, it was 13.4 per cent below July last year.

Three fields owned by Occidental - Piper, Claymore and Scapa - and three Texaco fields - Tartan, Petronella

and Highlander - are linked to Piper Alpha and have been put out of action.

Mr David Mudd, Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne, has meanwhile made startling allegations that diving bells, used by divers to carry out vital safety checks on North Sea oil rigs, have contained no more than tape recordings of heavy breathing.

The tapes, placed inside some bells, were used to trick inspectors into believing that the checks were being conscientiously performed, he claimed.

Instead, he said, the diving bells were empty. He said divers, claiming to be too frightened of victimization to speak publicly, had made the allegations.

Mr Mudd has urged the Government to investigate the allegations as part of the

inquiry into the Piper Alpha disaster.

Last night, Mr Ed Puncard, one of the divers who escaped from the Piper Alpha rig, said he was not surprised by the allegations. "I am glad that this is being brought out by Mr Mudd. There are an awful lot of things that the inquiry into the disaster must investigate", he said.

He said the allegations would be the "worst and most sensational" examples of companies cutting corners to complete jobs on time.

"This may well be a one-off, but it is an indication of what can happen because of financial restraints."

Mr Puncard said the work performed by divers in bells was monitored, but there

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## Licence for Piggott's daughter

By Andrew Moger

The condition of Mrs Susan Piggott, wife of Lester Piggott, the jailed former champion jockey, has shown slight improvement for the first time since she was admitted to hospital with severe head and chest injuries after a riding accident.

The couple's eldest daughter, Maureen, aged 27, will take over the running of the family stables at Newmarket after being granted a temporary licence.

Mrs Piggott, aged 47, had taken charge of the stables

Daughter in charge

after her husband was jailed last October for tax fraud.

The Jockey Club accepted that Miss Piggott had effectively acted as assistant trainer to her mother at the Eve Lodge Stables.

Mrs Piggott suffered extensive injuries to her chest, affecting her left lung, and a double fracture of her skull when her horse fell and rolled on top of her during exercise. She is on a ventilator in the neuro-sciences intensive care unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, which specializes in head injuries.

Miss Piggott, a successful three-day event rider, said: "She's much the same, but going in the right direction". She said: "I will hold the licence for as long as necessary, but I'm obviously keen for my mother to get back home as soon as possible."

## Burma celebrates move to democracy

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok

The new Burmese leader, President Maung Maung, threatened to resign last night unless the ruling party gave up its monopoly of power and agreed to a national referendum on multi-party democracy.

The warning came as hundreds of thousands of demonstrators - including disgruntled soldiers and civil servants, protested peacefully

in Rangoon for greater democracy. It was the largest demonstration seen in the city for 40 years.

Hours earlier, the President had lifted martial law in Rangoon, imposed three weeks ago, as the Government's authority became more tenuous. The end of martial law was made inevitable by the crumbling support for the regime within the military, police and bureaucracy. President Maung Maung

said an emergency congress of the Burmese Socialist Programme Party would be held on September 12 to decide on the democracy issue.

Free elections are one of the major political reforms demanded by the Burmese people, whose protests over the past two and a half weeks have brought the socialist-military regime near to collapse.

President Maung Maung said the party congress would be followed next day by a

session of Parliament to endorse the party decision.

Speaking after the lifting of martial law, a Western diplomat in Rangoon said the Government as "buying time".

Moreover nothing the Government has done so far appears likely to pacify its opponents or divert them from their other main objective: the release of political prisoners and guarantees of free speech, and a free press.

### Results show rise in standards

## GCSE proves 'success story'

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Despite "teething" troubles, the results of the new GCSE examination show a small but significant rise in standards, it was claimed by the examiners yesterday.

Mr Dennis Hatfield, chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE, said: "We think it looks like a success story. The vast majority of candidates have got what they hoped for and what they and their teachers deserved."

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, said: "The results mark an important stage in our efforts to raise education standards. The good start is confirmed by the latest reports from Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education."

The last average national figures for all GCE O levels show that 6.8 per cent achieved A grades compared with 8.6 per cent in the GCSE. The figure for all GCE passes from A to C was 39.8 per cent

administrative cock-ups we had this year. Late-arriving syllabuses and too much course-work in some subjects had placed a great strain on some of the pupils and teachers this year."

A spokesman for the National Union of Teachers said: "Parents, employers, and the community will all recognize the efforts that have been made, often in the face of the rushed introduction, the patchy training, the lack of adequate finance and the teething troubles."

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "The fact that the new examination has been made to work tolerably well is a tremendous tribute to the adaptability of the pupils and the frantic efforts made by teachers to compensate for shortcomings and problems which were inevitable."

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "We need to make sure we don't have any of the

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pupils and parents have naturally been worried about how it would work out.

"The figures bear out the strong evidence from the inspectors that the exam has already brought significant improvements in teaching and learning."

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "We need to make sure we don't have any of the

Before the trial started in November 1986, Mr Turnbull records receiving

## Guinness seeks appeal to Lords

By John Bell, City Editor

Guinness is seeking leave to take its legal battle with the City Takeover Panel to the House of Lords.

Last month the drinks and retailing group lost a key ruling in the Court of Appeal which could make it liable to pay an estimated £100 million to former shareholders in Distillers.

The Court of Appeal ruled that the Takeover Panel did not act unfairly when it decided that Guinness breached the takeover code during the £2.7 billion battle for the scotch whisky group.

The panel's investigation centred on Guinness's involvement in a concert party purchase of 10.66 million Distillers' shares at the height of the bid battle with Argyll, the supermarket group.

Guinness sought a judicial review of the panel's decision which was turned down. The

Court of Appeal upheld that decision.

The company stressed it "does not wish to challenge the authority of the panel, but only seeks to ensure that no ruling is made until sufficient of the relevant facts are known."

The company added its prime duty is to protect the interests of shareholders and that it has been advised that there are good legal grounds for an appeal to the Lords.

Guinness has, it said, a responsibility to pursue the appropriate remedies open to it. "This is important in the context of claims which the company may wish to make against third parties and any potential claims against Guinness, which it would defend." A ruling on the appeal is not expected for several weeks.

## Spy case tactics 'overheard in the Garrick Club'

From A Correspondent  
Sydney



Mr Turnbull: Book on his legal battle out next month.

An overheard conversation involving the then Attorney General Sir Michael Havers - now Lord Havers - in the lavatory of London's Garrick Club is said to have given vital information to the defence lawyers in the *Spycatcher* trial.

The alleged incident, which Lord Havers strongly denied last night, is described in a book to be published in Australia next month documenting the legal battle fought against the British Government's attempts to suppress the memoirs of former MI5 officer Peter Wright. The book, *The Spycatcher Trial*, is written by Mr Wright's Australian lawyer Mr Malcolm Turnbull, aged 34.

Before the trial started in November 1986, Mr Turnbull records receiving

information via a source at the Garrick Club. He writes: "It appeared that the Attorney General Sir Michael Havers was fond of sharing the heavy burdens of his great office with certain companions at the Garrick Club in London. One of his companions related Sir Michael's remark to a friend who passed them onto me (Mr Turnbull)."

"The first piece of intelligence from this source was that Sir Michael had been overheard in the Garrick Club exulting in his own cleverness. He had, he said, persuaded Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, that the Australian Government should give evidence in support of Britain."

"He added that Australia might even intervene in the proceedings and effectively take over the running from Britain. This was bad news indeed." But

Mr Turnbull was able to act on this information, making representation to the office of the Australian Attorney General, Mr Lionel Bowen, and sending copies of his letter to the Prime Minister Mr Hawke and the Australian Foreign Minister Mr Bill Hayden, opposing British pressure.

The letter said: "In our view the British Government's only motive for seeking to suppress the book is that information in the book is evidence that the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, made a false statement to the House of Commons in March 1981 concerning the investigation into Sir Roger Hollis."

Hollis was the former head of MI5 who Mr Wright believed to be a KGB agent. The Australian Foreign Ministry was

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## YOU'LL TREASURE THE TRANQUILLITY OF La CELIMA



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### Blow to Coe

Plans to invite Sebastian Coe, the Olympic 1500 metres champion, to compete at Seoul next month have been abandoned.....Page 38

### Degree results

Degrees of the universities of Bradford and London are published today.....Page 27

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Wards may close as nurses strike

Nurses are to go ahead with planned strikes at a number of hospitals today, in spite of the progress made during talks yesterday on the new grading structures between management and unions.

More than 200 nurses at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, who belong to the health workers' union, Cofe, have voted to strike indefinitely from September 5. A union spokesman said that a ballot showed 70 per cent supported the strike. Mr Peter Marshall, a Cofe regional officer, emphasized that the unions would now be negotiating with management about providing emergency cover, but he warned that some wards would have to close.

Nurses at the Middlesex Hospital, central London, are taking 12-hour strike action. At Charing Cross and Ealing General Hospitals, both in west London, nurses will walk out between 1pm and 3pm this afternoon.

## MP and wife jailed

Mr Peter Robinson, the Ulster MP and deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and his wife, Iris, were arrested and jailed yesterday for refusing to pay fines imposed for taking part in an illegal march. The couple surrendered to police by prior arrangement at Dundonald station on the eastern outskirts of Belfast yesterday afternoon and are expected to be released tomorrow.

## Post set for disruption

Postal services are to be disrupted by industrial action after the breakdown of talks between management and unions over regional rates of pay for new recruits. However, Mr Alan Tiffin, leader of the Union of Communication Workers, ruled out a national strike. He said further talks were "a waste of time". The Post Office had insisted on paying different rates in different areas and broken an agreement over bonuses in London and the South-east.

## Bus use decreases

The introduction of unfettered competition nearly two years ago in the bus industry has had only a limited effect on local services in most areas, a study by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory shows. About 40 per cent of professional transport officers interviewed said their services had improved, while about 20 per cent thought they had deteriorated. Either way, the changes were marginal. The number of passengers has also decreased, airport to be published next week by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities says. It estimates a 7.5-12.5 per cent fall-off.

## Footballer fined £650

Ken Sansom, the England and Arsenal footballer, was fined £650 at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday for refusing a breath test but escaped a driving ban because of his "exemplary footballing career". He was arrested in May after leaving a hotel where he had been celebrating with his club team mates. The court was told Sansom, of Park Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire, earned more than £70,000 a year, to which Mr Eric Crowther, the magistrate, said: "That is more than the Lord Chief Justice gets".

## Conflict in the NUM

Mr George Bolton, president of the National Union of Mineworkers in Scotland, has criticized his union's leadership over flexible working. The day after British Coal made an agreement with the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers for six-day working at Asfordby, in Leicestershire, Mr Bolton said: "I think it is quite tragic that the NUM has sat back, avoided difficult decisions, played this popular line (of opposition) and the membership is suffering as a consequence."

## Lord Rawlinson supports calls for ending of suspect's right to silence

## Soldier's stolen gun used in IRA killing

By Ronald Faux, David Sapsted and Richard Ford

A pistol torn from Corporal Derek Wood, one of the two Royal Corps of Signals soldiers attacked by a republican funeral mob and later killed by the IRA, was used in a murder this month.

Ballistics experts investigating the death of Lance Corporal Roy Butler — a volunteer with the Ulster Defence Regiment killed by two gunmen in central Belfast on August 2 — yesterday identified one of the bullets as coming from Corporal Wood's 9mm revolver.

The other weapon used was believed to be the pistol owned by the unionist extremist who killed three people when he launched a gun and grenade attack on the funeral of three IRA bombers killed in Gibraltar.

Police in Northern Ireland refused to make any comment on the alleged links between the three atrocities because of pending legal actions, but an Army officer said: "If this is true, then it is a sickening act by some very sick minds".

There has been no suggestion from the security forces that the IRA may be running short of handguns. The only motive for the use of those particular weapons is thought to be revenge against what Republican terrorists consider the "occupying forces".

Meanwhile, demands to remove a suspect's right to silence in an attempt to convict more terrorists in Northern Ireland were supported yesterday by a former Attorney General.

Lord Rawlinson said the State had the right to make special provisions in the face of a secret organization engaged in murder.

He said the right to silence was a barrier to justice and that changes should be made. "It is no use having a system of trial which was appropriate for certain circumstances but which isn't appropriate when you have a gang of terrorists using all the protection of the law in order to further their murder and assassination."

"I think a person who does not answer where they were and what they were doing and why they were doing what they were doing, I think that should be able to be given in evidence."

The Labour Party warned the Government of the dangers of being provoked by the latest upsurge in Provisional IRA violence into measures including changes in the judicial procedures which would give the terrorists a propaganda coup.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said the Provisional IRA's purpose would be "totally achieved" if it provoked the Government into imposing further judicial procedures and criminal laws which did not apply in the rest of the United Kingdom.

"Internment would be a victory for the IRA, so would the abolition of the right to silence in Northern Ireland courts."

IRA terrorists cannot be defeated in Northern Ireland without closing their easy escape route across the border into the Republic, Dr David Owen said yesterday.

The Social Democratic Party leader maintained his conviction that it is possible to seal off the 300-mile border without building a wall or setting up a no man's land along the frontier.



Forensic science officers examining an armoured police car blown off the Moneyshavin Road yesterday near Monaghan, by an IRA bomb. Two Royal Ulster Constabulary officers escaped the blast with cars and injuries.

## Hostage mother tells of ordeal at baby party

A Belfast mother yesterday told how she was held hostage by two IRA terrorists who burst into her home during her son's first birthday party.

Mrs Breigean McGurk said her children became hysterical with fear when the hooded gunmen arrived at the door of the house in Bantry Street, west Belfast and demanded the keys to the family car.

One guarded the family while the car was driven away and transformed into a mobile bomb which later caused more than £3 million damage to the city centre.

"Sean was too young to understand but the other two were terrified. Patrick, who is six, thought they were robbers. I played games with them and tried to calm them down. They could see and hear them in the

next room through the glass door. Everyone was very frightened", she said.

A large area of Belfast city centre was blocked off yesterday as repair work went ahead to hundreds of broken windows caused by the blast from the 300lb bomb left outside Windsor House, one of the city's main office blocks.

Thousands of workers were asked to stay away until buildings were made safe.

Four hundred shopfloor workers at BRD Engineering in Aldridge, West Midlands, downed tools for two minutes at 11am yesterday.

They were joined by colleagues from nearby shops and offices, and stood in silence at the works entrance while the Union Flag was lowered to half mast.



Mrs Breigean McGurk yesterday with her son Sean

## Tories in fourth-term drive

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The revamp of the Conservative Party's organization was announced yesterday as a prelude to selling the party in the next election.

A new department of communications will be set up devoted to getting across the desired "image" at rallies and on television.

Its director will take over responsibility for press and broadcasting contacts, including the party political broadcasts and opinion polls. That

will give him or her the advantage of an overall view of how the party's message is getting across to voters.

The changes result from the review ordered by Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, after the 1982 election, when the party headquarters became infected by in-fighting.

The key to the reorganization will be three directors covering communications, re-

search and party campaigning. They will have an eye to helping the Conservatives to win a fourth term in office.

The new team, together with the razzmatazz observed by Mr Harvey Thomas, director of presentation and promotion, at the Republican convention in New Orleans last week, will be devoted to presenting a combination of a clearly defined message, together with some glamour in future election campaigns.

## Aircraft study to be unveiled

By Harvey Elliott

Britain is falling behind in the race to design a successor to the Concorde, with Japan, the United States and France all having now produced detailed studies for an aircraft capable of flying at up to five times the speed of sound.

While British designers have concentrated on the Hotel space "plane" intended for use as a satellite launch vehicle, their competitors have focused on the area of supersonic passenger planes.

## FLIGHTCHECK



Aérospatiale, the French aircraft manufacturer, will unveil two new projects at the Farnborough air show in Hampshire next month.

One of the designs is specifically aimed at producing a successor to Concorde. The aircraft would fly at about the

same speed but carry 200 passengers, double the capacity of the present model, over much greater distances. The French will also unveil designs for a hypersonic aircraft to be in production by 2015.

British Paramount flight in Ibiza scheduled 7.20am, delayed 3.55pm. Return flight scheduled 8.55pm, expected 3.30am.

Manchester: British Airways from Los Angeles scheduled 1.15pm, expected 7.45pm. From Air from Corfu scheduled 4.40pm, expected 6.10pm.

WHISKY FROM THE OLD SCHOOL



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s right to silence

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to be unveiled

CHECK

# 'No mercy' warning by judge on Notting Hill carnival crime

By Edward Gorman

The courts will show no mercy to anyone convicted of public order offences and violence against the police at the Notting Hill Carnival this weekend, a judge said yesterday.

The warning comes amid growing public safety fears and concern among the local community and organizers that attempts by the police to close the event in the early evening could cause riots.

The police have made clear they are unhappy with arrangements for stewarding the carnival. They have warned the public that gangs of "steemers" in the densely-packed streets could cause havoc.

Judge Graham Jones, in jailing a man for 33 months for pulling a knife on police officers during riots at the end of last year's carnival, said: "Serious public disorders, and in particular violence towards the police, can not and will not be tolerated. There must be a sentence which will be seen as a deterrent."

Knightsbridge Crown Court, west London, was told that Mark Lewis, aged 31, of Maida Vale, was at the head of a mob of about 60 rioters as officers moved in to close the event on the second day.

The court was told that Lewis, who has 18 previous convictions including offences of violence and possession of weapons, had jeered at police officers, calling them "pigs". He had then shouted: "I hope you get what you... deserve tonight". A police squad had

attempted to arrest him after he threw a crate of Coca-Cola at officers.

It was then that he had pulled a 10-inch knife and threatened the officers, the court was told.

Police Constable Barry McBride said: "I suddenly saw Lewis with a long, dagger-type knife in his hand."

"He then became very violent again and it took us a while to calm him down when we put him in the back of the van."

Lewis, unemployed, was sentenced to 21 months for affray and 18 months concurrently for possession of a knife. He received an additional 12-month sentence, to be served consecutively, for breach of a previous suspended sentence and for possession of the knife.

Concern about the carnival and fears for public safety come after more than 1,000 serious crimes last year.

They included the first murder in the event's 22-year history and the death of a man after ambulance crews failed to reach him in time through crowded streets.

The police have made clear that a breakdown in relations with the Carnival Arts Committee (CAC) means a public safety plan agreed last March, aimed at preventing a repetition of last year's violence, has not been fully implemented.

One consequence is that more than 500 stewards, who the police believe are vital for the safety of an expected 1.5

million carnival goers, have still not been trained.

Meanwhile, a leading figure in Notting Hill's Caribbean community said last night that bail conditions which prevented him from being present on the streets during the carnival increased the chances of tension leading to violence.

Mr Frank Crichtlow, who runs the Mangrove Community Association, All Saint's Road, Notting Hill, was arrested last May and charged with intent to supply marijuana and heroin.

Mr Crichtlow said the conditions of his bail, which prevent him from going within 500 yards of the Mangrove premises, stopped him from playing his traditional role as "peace-maker" between the local community and the police.

Mr Crichtlow, whose supporters include the Dean of North Kensington, Mr Michael Hollings, failed in a court attempt to have his bail conditions altered.

He said violence on the All Saint's Road was almost inevitable.

The Mangrove Steel Band, traditionally the biggest and often the best band at the carnival, announced last night that it would not take part in this year's carnival in a gesture of solidarity with Mr Crichtlow.

Mr Jebb Johnson, of the band, said the decision to boycott the carnival reflected dissatisfaction with the route agreed by the CAC and police.

## Cellular telephones

# Vodafone admits connection failures

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

One of the two companies operating the British cellular network has admitted that it is failing to meet its own targets for trouble-free calls, with at least one in eight failing to connect.

Racal Vodafone, which, in competition with British Telecom, operates the cellular network, has found it is failing to connect 12 per cent of calls nationally, with the problem being significantly worse in some cities.

The company's design target for the network is for just one in 50 calls failing.

Users of Britain's cellular telephone network are becoming increasingly dissatisfied and the latest disclosure of failure rates comes the day before the Telecommunications Users' Association, the action group representing corporate users of telecommunication equipment, begins a national survey of customer

satisfaction with the network prompted by the growing number of complaints from the association's 750 members, which include multinational companies.

There are currently about 400,000 users of cellphones in the UK and the number of new users has almost doubled every year since the system started.

The level of demand is putting great pressure on the operators, who are racing to build more "cells" into the network. Vodafone, which has so far spent £150 million on extra infrastructure, is planning to spend another £70 million this year alone.

Mrs Vivienne Peters, chief executive of the TUA, said yesterday that she considered a 12 per cent congestion figure on the network "unacceptable". She said many of the complaints reaching the TUA concern other aspects of the

cellular system, in particular the cost and billing of calls made.

The association was "most concerned" about the policy of charging for calls even when congestion prevents them being connected, and for the level of mark-up being set by equipment makers which sell air-time on the network.

If the survey confirms the level of complaints, it is considering approaching both the Advertising Standards Authority and OfTel, the Government's telecommunications watchdog.

Racal Vodafone admitted yesterday that its service availability is not as good as it would like, although it insists that its network has the capacity to cope with more than three times its current number of subscribers. Mr Ian Volans, of Vodafone, said some customers were making unrealistic demands on the system.

# Elvis Presley suits fetch £40,000

By David Nicholson-Lord

Two stage costumes once worn by Elvis Presley were sold at auction in London yesterday for £40,000.

His favourite suit, nicknamed "Shooting Star" and worn on stage during a concert in New York's Madison Square Gardens in 1972, was sold for £26,000 to Mr Warwick Stone, representing the Hard Rock Cafe of Los Angeles.

Another spectacular blue one-piece stage suit, nicknamed "Good Luck" by Presley and worn during a 1972 tour of Hawaii, went to ex-comedian singer Jimmy Velvet for £14,000.

Mr Velvet now runs an Elvis Presley Museum in Nashville, Tennessee, and visited London auction rooms, Phillips, specially for the sale.

He said afterwards: "This makes six jump suits which were once worn by Elvis which I now own and exhibit in my museums. I'm very happy with my day's purchases."

But he missed one item from Elvis's wardrobe — a black cotton shirt worn in a movie in 1971 and sold to Mrs Roswitha Peddler, Frankfurt-born wife of a shipping company managing director.

"I have a lot of Elvis memorabilia because I am a real fan of his. I also own a gold watch which he inscribed and then gave to his doctor."

"I also have a cigar-cutter of his, although mine is only a private collection," she said.

Elvis won the battle of the superstar wardrobes against young pretender Michael Jackson, whose stage costumes made less than expected.

All the Elvis items were designed by his close friend, Bill Belew, and each came with an accompanying letter from him verifying their authenticity.



Mr Warwick Stone with the Presley suit he bought at £26,000 (Photograph: Marc Aspland)

## World Congress of Philosophy

# The loaded question of dice

By Alan Hamilton

Drawing on the examples of tossed coins and thrown dice, Sir Karl Popper, one of the most distinguished philosophers living in Britain, told the World Congress of Philosophy at Brighton yesterday that the world was no longer operated by clockwork, or even by electricity.

Sir Karl, a spry 86-year-old born in Vienna and for many years a pillar of the London School of Economics, chose the opportunity of a special guest address to 500 delegates to expand his long-held view that the past does not determine the future, and that the world is full of endless possibilities.

Known especially as a philosopher of science, Sir Karl has long rejected the view that the future is governed by the past, expressed by Descartes in terms of a clockwork world, and by Marx in terms of dialectical materialism.

"The world is no longer a causal machine," Sir Karl said. "It can now be seen to be an unfolding process, realizing possibilities and unfolding new possibilities." It was not, he argued, the kicks from the back that impelled man, but the lure of the future.

But although the future is full of possibilities, not all are equally likely; the dice are loaded. Sir Karl advanced his theory of propensity, that there exist weighted possibilities that are more than mere possibilities, but propensities to become real. "The propensity to survive for another year, or for 20 years, is not a property of man, but it is inherent in his situation."

As a scientific philosopher, Sir Karl has raised science almost to the level of art. "Next to music and art, science is the greatest, most beautiful and most enlightening achievement of the human

spirit. I abhor the noisy intellectual fashion that tries to denigrate science," he said. "I admire beyond anything the marvellous results achieved by the work of biologists and biochemists, and made available through medicine to sufferers all over our beautiful earth."

Among his audience was the 73-strong Russian delegation, listening to a man who has traditionally been an opponent of Marxism. Under glasnost, however, the view of Marx in the Soviet Union is reportedly moving away from the scientific economist to the humanitarian philosopher.

They scored an important triumph in Brighton yesterday, winning their bid to stage the next World Congress in Moscow in 1993 against a counter bid from Kenya. But then, as Sir Karl believes, the future is full of infinite possibilities.

## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Decision for oilman

The sole winner of the Portfolio prize is Mr John Nicklen, a retired oil company worker, who plans to spend the money on paying off some bills and one or two surprises.

Mr Nicklen, aged 73, of Turners Mill Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, who worked in the Far East, said he had been playing the competition since it started and had not yet decided what to buy with the rest of the £4,000 windfall.

## Man held

Brian Scarborough, aged 43, of Leeds, was remanded in custody at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday accused of sending false letter bombs to the Prime Minister at Downing Street on three occasions.

## Alert for baby

Police wish to contact Mr John Smith and his wife Nola, of Dordun, Warwickshire, believed to be touring north Wales in a white Rover Freight mini-caravan with their four children. They are unaware that their son Ben, aged four weeks, needs urgent medical treatment.

## Cannabis haul

Two men were being questioned by police last night after 80 kg of cannabis valued at £640,000 was found in a suburban garage at Didsbury, Greater Manchester, after a seven-month investigation.

## Body snatched

The body of a man aged 61 was stolen from the mortuary at Barnsley District Hospital in South Yorkshire early yesterday. The hospital said there was nothing unusual about the man, or the illness from which he died, to explain the theft.

## Wildlife jobs

The Avon Wildlife Trust and the Bristol Training Centre will provide 230 places for long-term jobs under the Government's employment programme with courses for administrative and clerical workers in bank, conservation and horticultural jobs.

## Architect dies

Mr Bernard Ashwell, architect to the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral for 25 years, was found shot dead at his home in the grounds of Tewkesbury Abbey yesterday. He was aged 79. Foul play is not suspected.

**Quoting The Times overseas:**  
Australia \$2.75; Belgium \$ 5; France 9.00; Germany 12.00; Denmark 12.00; Finland 12.00; Greece 12.00; Holland 12.00; Ireland 12.00; Italy 12.00; Japan 12.00; Korea 12.00; Malaysia 12.00; Mexico 12.00; New Zealand 12.00; Norway 12.00; Pakistan 12.00; Portugal 12.00; Singapore 12.00; South Africa 12.00; Sweden 12.00; Switzerland 12.00; Taiwan 12.00; Thailand 12.00; USA 12.00.

# Broadmoor death after argument

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police confirmed yesterday that a patient at Broadmoor special hospital died after a dispute with another inmate.

The death, on Tuesday night, came after the hospital's nurses called off a night-time overtime ban in their campaign for more staff and better conditions. Four staff had been attacked earlier.

The patient was named later as Joseph Watts, aged 30. Thames Valley Police said: "It is known that shortly before his death he had been involved in an altercation with another patient which was brought under control by the successful intervention of staff."

Police believe Mr Watts' death was not due to violence.

A source at the Berkshire hospital said he was restrained by staff and, after a doctor was called, was placed under sedation. He was checked during the evening but at about 9pm a nurse discovered that he had died.

## Chess success

# A champion playing for fun

By Ruth Gledhill

Jon Speelman the "mysterious underdog" who has become the first Briton to win a place in the world chess championship semi-finals, could in theory become Britain's first chess millionaire.

Going on to play or even beat Kasparov would net him a small fortune — if he wanted it. But Speelman, aged 31, is not attracted by the money or fame associated with today's game.

Relaxing after his tense match with Nigel Short, aged 23, which he won on Tuesday night after drawing the fifth game, he insisted that chess for him is an intellectual as opposed to a monetary pursuit.

He is determined not to own a car or a television, wears a watch he won in a tournament in 1973 and has no plans to leave his small flat in West Hampstead. His proudest possessions are 600 chess books.

Speelman has lost count of the number of games he has played with Short, a close friend who is ranked third in the world and lives 10 minutes' walk away.

"Nigel actually beat me in

the first game we ever played, when he was 14. Then I won quite a lot of games. He beat me again in a tournament he won in the Soviet Union.

"Since then he's had a psychological advantage. He used to beat me with white and draw with black. I really cannot remember the last time I beat him."

Speelman has already won the British championship three times, once more than Short.

Although he was good for his age in his youth and became British under-14 champion in 1969, he did not play an international master until his mid-twenties and never seriously considered chess, or anything else, as a professional career.

He did not play much at Worcester College, Oxford, which he left with a good second in mathematics and says it was "partly drift and partly intent" which set him playing seriously.

In 1978, he finally became an International Master and quickly moved on to become a Grand Master in 1980, learned Russian at the Polytechnic of Central London and

wrote five chess books.

His hobbies include poetry, crossword puzzles, teaching youngsters on British Chess Federation training schemes and playing chess "for fun".

"I prefer to be an underdog. I shall continue to think of myself as such for as long as I can."

Generously, he says of Short: "He did not get a chance to show how he could play. I was lucky. In the second game, he saw more than I did but he was constrained by his own vision."

Here are the moves for the fifth game against Short on Tuesday, with Speelman playing white:

White	Black	20 Nc3	Rxd1
1 Nf3	Nb5	21 Rxd1	Bd5
2 c4	e5	22 Bc5	Bd5
3 d4	d5	23 Bc5	Rfd8
4 Bg2	dxc4	24 Bf1	Ne7
5 Qc2	g6	25 Rc1	Qg4
6 Nc3	Nb5	26 Bc5	Ng5
7 Nxc4	b5	27 Na5	Ba8
8 Ne3	Nxc3	28 Qc4	Bxc5
9 dxc3	Rb7	29 Qxc5	Ng5
10 e4	Rb7	30 Kf1	Qd5
11 e4	Ra8	31 Qxb4	Rd8
12 d4	Be7	32 Bf1	Qd3
13 Bf1	Qc8	33 Bg2	O-O
14 Bf4	Nc6	34 Nc4	Bc5
15 Na3	e5	35 Qa5	Ba8
16 Bc4	b4	36 Bc7	Ba4
17 Nc4	a4	37 Qa5	Ba5
18 Rxc1	Rc8		
19 Nd2	Rd8		Draw agreed

now seen as an important source of vitamin C and dietary fibre. Contrary to common belief, it produces only 6 per cent of energy in the average diet.

Professor David Southgate, head of nutrition and food quality at the Institute of Food Research, said afterwards: "We want a new appreciation of starchy foods and dietary fibre because we realize now that starchy foods may have benefits we didn't know about before."

One of the highlights of the three-day conference was a traditional English dinner.

Three hundred delegates from 44 countries enjoyed vegetable soup, roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, carrots and cauliflower, followed by apple pie and cream. The meal was described as "perfectly nutritious".

# Pregnant women warned off cereals

An expectant mother's morning bowl of high-fibre cereal may stop essential minerals reaching her unborn child, a nutritionist said yesterday.

It could result in a deficiency of zinc which is required for the growth of the foetus, Dr Sue Southon, a mineral nutrition specialist at the Institute of Food Research in Norwich said.

"Small babies need zinc for their development and without it there could be disorders in foetal development, particularly if the baby is born to a mother who is a vegetarian or who is following a very high-fibre cereal diet. They should eat more fresh fruit and fresh vegetables", she said.

Dr Southon is doing research on zinc absorption by the body and on the effects of poor zinc diets. She was commenting

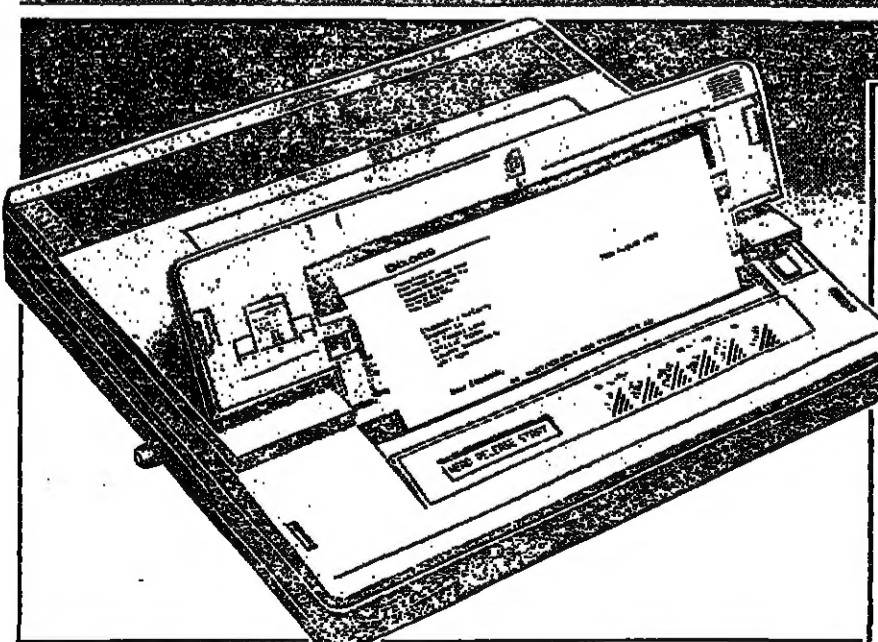
on a paper by Professor H E Mueller, controller of nutritional quality for Nestle, the research arm of Nestlé, to delegates at Bioavailability '88, an international nutrition conference at the University of East Anglia.

Professor Mueller said an increase in certain types of fibre might lead to a restriction in the body's uptake of essential minerals like zinc and iron.

Dr Southon said iron deficiency anaemia, the most common dietary deficiency in the world, could be reduced by fresh fruit juice, which contains vitamin C. The vitamin improves iron absorption.

The conference, the first of its kind to explore the application of physics and chemistry to nutritional problems, also urged more research into starch and its potential benefits. The humble potato is

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## Check on feeding is ordered in battle against seal virus

By Andrew Morgan

The Government yesterday announced an initiative to establish how common seals, dying in large numbers along the Norfolk coast, pick up pollutants suspected of reducing immunity to lethal viruses.

The viruses killing the seals, from the herpes and picorna groups, are the same as those which have killed up to 7,000 common seals off Denmark, West Germany and The Netherlands, where scientists are trying to develop a vaccine.

The Department of the Environment is offering more money to the Natural Environment Research Council's Sea Mammal Unit, based in Cambridge, to mark a group of common seals and monitor their feeding movements with radio transmitters attached to their backs. It will report in six months.

Little can be done for adult seals affected by the viruses, but pups and yearlings stand a better chance of survival.

However, scientists said last night that it would be logistically impossible to inoculate North Sea stocks even if a vaccine were developed.

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Under-Secretary of State at the Department for the Environment, said that scientific evidence suggested that natural viruses caused the disease.

Common seals are at most risk, accumulating toxic compounds such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxin, dumped after industrial processes, in their blubber through eating a range of fish and crustaceans.

Biphenyls are slow to degrade and accumulate, even though the annual amounts dumped may not be rising.

Toxic compounds in the blubber are released during stressful periods, such as the breeding season or the moult, now coming to an end. They reduce a seal's resistance to disease and they have been found in dead seals from the Wadden and Baltic Seas.

After last November's meeting of North Sea ministers in London, it was agreed to end dumping harmful industrial waste by next year, incineration by 1994 and a 50 per cent reduction in river-borne substances by 1995.

While the common seal, of

which there are 25,000 in UK waters, is most affected, the grey and red seals face a greater potential threat.

The UK has 95,000 grey seals, half the world's population, and dolphins and porpoises are also exposed.

The Mediterranean Sea's monk seal, of which there are only between 500 and 1,000, faces the greatest threat if the virus is found to affect all species.

Dr John Harwood, of the Cambridge unit, said: "Seals are at the top of the food chain and are vulnerable to contaminants through eating fish. They are closest to man physiologically and they give an early warning of pollutants which might affect us."

Between May and early August, there were 130 reported deaths off the Norfolk coast, which is normal, but 80 had died there this month alone, more than 10 times the normal rate.

The Wash seals were infected, he said, but it may still spread to the common seals in the Tay and Moray firths and then on to the Orkney and Shetlands, taking two months in all.

## Happy 641st for the Priddy Fair



Farmers preparing their stocks of ewes, lambs and rams yesterday for the 641st Great Annual Sale at the Priddy Fair, near Wells, in Somerset, one of the oldest in England. More than 4,000 sheep were sold at prices 10 per cent up on last year. The fair dates from the Black Death, when farmers refused to take their sheep to Wells for sale (Photograph: Peter Trifunov).

## Sex video wife says she loved employer

A wife yesterday denied blackmailing her wealthy employer with a video film of sex acts. "I loved him", she wept.

The wife, aged 31, told a jury at the Central Criminal Court of her shock at discovering she and the businessman had been secretly filmed.

She went on to insist that her relationship was not a sham to enable her to blackmail the company director for £23,500.

She described how her husband's turning to drugs and staying out late had driven her into the arms of the wealthy company director.

In November 1986, after finding a note with the video, she realized her husband had flown her children to Egypt to ensure she never saw them again.

"The only person I could turn to for help was my boss. I could not tell anyone else about the affair."

The following day he handed her £3,500 in an envelope and she smashed up the tape and threw it into a bin in Holloway Road, north London. "He told me never to contact him again", she said.

The couple, from west London, deny blackmailing the Greek businessman for £23,500.

The trial continues today.

## Police reject 'free' borders in Europe

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police officials in Europe fear crime could rise with the abolition of internal frontiers by 1992. They came out against free borders in Europe after a divided meeting in London yesterday.

The decision, arising from concern about poor safeguards against the movement of international criminals, was reached by a one-vote majority at the annual conference of the executive committee of the European Police Union.

The misgivings led added force to the British Government's view that the Single European Act does not require the abolition of all controls at internal frontiers between member states of the Community by the end of 1992.

The Government believes that though there will be easier movement between the respective countries, that does not mean controls should be relaxed over the movement of citizens of non-member countries, or that all forms of control at the internal frontiers have to be abandoned.

The message from the union is that unless there are urgent efforts to consult police throughout Europe and reach agreement on tackling crime,

law enforcement could suffer after 1992.

The meeting of the executive of the union, which represents almost 500,000 officers in 17 member countries, reflected huge gaps in official thinking about the best way of curbing crime in Europe.

Mr Peter Tanner, secretary of the Police Federation of England and Wales, who is the European Union's president, said: "As professional police officers we fear there will be considerable police problems in 1992."

"We believe that it is important now to have international co-operation for the control of matters such as drugs and terrorism and the movement of criminals across borders."

An outstanding issue disclosed by the meeting was how free police from one country should be to engage in pursuit of criminals to another. Mr Tanner said that criminals might be able to move more freely than the police.

The extreme solution would be to have a European police force, an idea supported within the union by France, though the Nordic countries and the United Kingdom are against it.

The French at the meeting believed that eventually there would be one force in Europe.

## New code on lorries to prevent ferry accidents

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Tough new regulations to reduce the risk of the movement of heavy goods vehicles on the decks of cross-Channel ferries contributing to a capsize, have been put forward by the Department of Transport.

This follows the report of Mr Justice Sheen on the Zebrugga disaster, and also work done by the shipping community within the International Maritime Organization.

The capsize of the Herald of Free Enterprise was caused by the fact that she sailed with her bow doors open, and there was no suggestion that movements of lorries on the vehicle decks caused the disaster. Nevertheless, in his report Mr Justice Sheen said: "Freight vehicles should always be secured. If they are unsecured

even a tight turn may shift them, with a dramatic effect on stability."

Now the department has issued a draft code of practice specifying procedures regarding the lashing down of vehicles and the stowage of cargo. As with some other regulations, introduced since the Herald of Free Enterprise capsize 18 months ago, it is proposed that failure to comply with the code of practice could lead to a prison sentence of up to two years, or a fine, for the ship owner, the Master or the shipper.

The Department of Transport said the proposals were a codification of existing best practice. If adopted they would lead to vehicles being lashed or chained down more often than at present.

## Fear of aggression is plague of modern life

By Kerry Gill

Society is no more violent today than in the past but people have become more worried about aggressive behaviour, according to the director of Strathclyde University's addiction research group.

Fear of aggression while at work is on the increase and is causing stress among a wide variety of occupations ranging from prison officers to shop assistants, Dr John Davies says.

"Managing Aggression in the Workplace" is the theme of a two-day course to be held in Glasgow next month, designed to teach people how to deal with aggressive behaviour.

Dr Davies, of Strathclyde University's psychology department and the addiction research group's director,

said: "There is little evidence of a massive increase in violence generally, but people are far more bothered about it than they used to be."

"They are becoming more aware of what risks they might run and more worried, and feel more threatened."

Dr Davies, who has attended the Home Office course on hostage negotiation, said there was a need for people in a wide range of jobs to learn how to control potential aggression.

Teachers, prison officers, nurses, social workers and bar staff will be among those attending the course, during which they will also be taught simple self-defence skills.

The course will simulate scenes ranging from aggressive behaviour in a shop to a hostage incident.

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# Courts censured for refusing bail too often in trivial cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Defendants accused of trivial offences, those who cannot speak English and the mentally ill are being remanded in custody quite inappropriately, a Home Office report says.

A research project published today says people from all three groups are too frequently denied bail by the courts.

The project, which successfully obtained bail for a number of defendants remanded in custody, says the condition of some police cells to which women are remanded also gives cause for concern.

At one London magistrates' court there was no hot water and the shower consisted of a temporary arrangement using a hosepipe in the men's toilet.

The study further found that courts did not always record the reason for refusing bail, nor did they always notify defendants of that reason in writing, as they are meant to.

The project, which ran for four weeks in February at Wormwood Scrubs prison in west London, was set up at short notice by the Home Office and the Inner London Probation Service. Research-

ers interviewed remand prisoners and drew up "bail packages" for them - finding accommodation and arranging reporting conditions - which defence counsel presented to courts at the prisoners' next hearing.

The aim was to see how many remand prisoners bail could be obtained for.

Of 323 male defendants interviewed by the project team, more than five times as many were granted bail as remand prisoners in a control group.

However, the project points out that of the 54 men granted bail in the experimental group, a number of cases had nothing to do with the intervention of the team.

It also found that almost 10 per cent of prisoners interviewed did not want bail, usually because the prisoner thought a guilty verdict likely and felt it better to serve part of the expected sentence on remand.

A stumbling block for the team was finding out why bail was refused initially.

Courts always give an oral explanation but are also required to record it and give a

copy of the notice to the defendant. That was not done in every case, the project found, although one reason might be that the written notice was given to the defendant's solicitor instead.

As prisoners could not always give an accurate account of why bail was refused, the team was left "fumbling around in the dark trying to discover these reasons".

The report concludes that some prisoners granted bail after the team's intervention would undoubtedly have been denied it otherwise, and remained in custody.

It suggests the possibility of much greater involvement by the probation service, with officers taking a more active role in bail applications and probation day centres being used for reporting conditions.

In future, probation service bail teams could work both at court before the bail decision is made, and with prisoners on remand.

*Bail and Probation Work: the ILPS temporary bail action project. Research and Planning Unit Paper 40 (Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1).*

# Transatlantic touch for Academy works



Royal Academy conservators Miss Andrea Gall (left), Miss Jenny Williamson (centre) and Miss Mandy Panley touching up the canvases and frames of some of the 20th century paintings soon to leave Britain for a year's tour of the United States. The exhibition of 67 works, entitled "The Edwardians and After: The Royal Academy 1900-1950", will open at the IBM Gallery of Science and Art in New York on September 27 (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

# Renewed drive on training schemes

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The Government is planning a campaign in the run-up to the TUC Congress to counter the impression that it is planning to introduce compulsory training.

It will be aimed at bolstering moderate trade unions who are in favour of co-operating with the Government's new Employment Training scheme for 600,000 long-term unemployed, which starts on September 5.

Although the TUC general council narrowly gave the scheme its support, any threat of making it compulsory would almost certainly give the left victory in its attempt to persuade the conference to withdraw its co-operation.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, is now planning to "vigorously counter the impression" that the scheme's voluntary basis will be changed.

A Ministry spokesman said: "Compulsion is not an element that the Government

wants to introduce into the training scheme."

The Government announcement came as Mr Brian Wolfson, the new chairman of the Training Commission, yesterday ruled out compulsory training.

Mr Wolfson, who takes up his new post on September 1, said a version of the American workfare system, where the unemployed have their benefits withdrawn if they refuse training, was not even under discussion.

Mr Wolfson said: "There are no plans on the horizon to do anything compulsory. It would be very sad if it were ever needed."

Neither Mr Fowler nor Mr Wolfson are prepared to use the word "never" in their denials over compulsory training.

Trade union leaders will receive a letter from Mr Wolfson giving them an "unequivocal assurance" that workfare will not be introduced.

# 'All-in' house sales to rise as rules change

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

More all-in price "packages" for house sellers, which combine conveyancing and estate agency fees, are likely to be offered from next week when solicitors are free to link up with estate agencies to find clients.

The lifting of existing bans on such links starts on September 1 with a new code giving solicitors more freedom to compete for work.

They will be able to enter into arrangements with estate agents and building societies for the regular introduction of work, and be party to schemes offering all-in price "packages". Estate agents, for instance, will be able to offer

deals to vendors which combine both their fees and those of the solicitor. The estate agent will then pay the solicitor's fee direct.

Solicitors face a number of strict rules under the new code: in particular there must be no kick-back payments from the solicitor to the introducer of work.

Other main points in the code are: clients must be free to choose their own solicitor; solicitors must ensure advice given to clients is not coloured by the desire to avoid offending the introducer; and review arrangements if more than 20 per cent of their business comes from introductions.



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## GCSE: 'Compared with the old examinations, gradings are slightly better'

## Examiners are 'very impressed' after analysis of results

By David Tyler  
Education Editor

A rise in the quality of modern language passes in the new GCSE examination — the results of which will be sent to 700,000 teenagers today — is one of the most significant factors in the provisional statistics compiled by the examiners. More than half the passes are A to C grades, which are roughly equivalent to the old GCE O level grades.

Mr Dennis Hatfield, chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE, said in London yesterday: "The improved standards in modern languages reflect the changes in the new examination, which lays more emphasis on oral work and less on written".

Mr John Edmundson, secretary to the council, said: "We are still analysing the figures but these provisional statistics are supported by the very experienced examiners and moderators, the vast majority of whom have come from the old GCE and CSE boards and have been very impressed by the standards."

Stressing the difference between the old and new examinations, Mr Hatfield said: "The GCSE is designed to find out what the candidates can do rather than what they cannot do. We have achieved this. As far as it is possible to compare the gradings with the old examinations, they are slightly better."

The last average national figures for all GCE O levels show that 6.8 per cent achieved A grades compared with 8.6 per cent in the GCSE. The figure for all GCE passes from A to C was 39.8 per cent compared with 41.8 per cent for GCSE.

Striking results were achieved in Greek and Latin, with 62.6 per cent of the 1,276 candidates studying Greek and 41.8 per cent of the 15,609 Latin students being awarded A grades.

In Greek, 95.6 per cent achieved A, B or C grades; in Latin the figure was 85.2 per cent. Mr Edmundson explained: "It is a highly selective candidature, many from the independent sector. There

used to be very little CSE Latin. The results match up with previous O level results in Latin and Greek."

In English and mathematics, the two biggest GCSE subjects, the results were more evenly spread. In maths, 36.8 per cent of the GCSE candidates were awarded A to C grades, compared with 37.6 per cent at GCE. In English, the figures were 43.6 per cent for GCSE and 46.6 per cent at GCE. In French, it was 50 per cent compared with 42.5 per cent.

Mr Edmundson said: "The vast majority of examiners and moderators in GCSE served as such for O level and CSE in previous years. The examining and awarding procedures followed for GCSE are derived from the best of GCE O level and CSE practices. The examiners have been trying to identify the same competence and ability as earlier in the O level and CSE. The GCSE has liberated them to demonstrate more competence in these skills. They have more scope."



Mr Dennis Hatfield (left) and Mr Geoffrey Carver, of the Joint Council for the GCSE.

## First test for the new GCSE: how the candidates fared

Subject	No of Candidates	Percentage of Candidates Obtaining Grade						
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Art & Design	221,438	8.6	12.5	18.3	18.8	17.5	14.5	7.8
Business Studies	22,741	8.2	9.2	22.3	22.3	16.4	10.8	5.7
Latin	15,809	41.8	26.1	17.3	7.4	4.0	1.9	0.9
Greek	1,276	62.6	23.2	9.8	2.5	1.0	0.6	0.16
Classical Civilisation	9,065	17.0	21.0	22.4	9.8	7.4	6.9	8.7
Computer Studies	97,028	5.5	11.0	17.5	18.9	16.3	15.6	11.9
CDT	157,021	6.8	11.4	16.9	19.0	18.8	15.4	7.6
Economics	32,449	9.7	16.1	22.2	20.7	18.4	9.3	4.3
English	854,749	6.6	14.2	22.8	23.2	17.9	10.3	4.0
English Literature	394,280	9.4	17.3	24.1	22.3	15.5	8.0	2.6
Home Economics	187,543	4.1	10.0	18.1	21.2	20.0	15.1	7.3
Geography	255,183	7.8	14.0	18.5	19.1	18.4	12.5	7.2
History	242,780	3.8	15.0	18.3	17.4	15.5	11.9	7.8
French	238,132	19.8	14.6	15.6	17.9	14.8	11.6	4.7
German	88,675	20.7	15.3	16.7	17.5	13.6	10.9	4.4
Spanish	17,449	22.9	17.4	16.8	15.9	12.0	9.9	4.5
Mathematics	661,655	6.2	6.9	21.7	16.4	16.3	15.4	7.1
Music	27,577	13.3	21.2	23.2	15.7	11.9	8.2	3.3
Religious Studies	104,009	6.8	12.9	18.8	17.7	16.8	12.6	7.7
Biology	260,949	7.3	12.4	28.1	19.2	14.4	12.2	6.5
Chemistry	214,818	10.6	14.7	23.0	18.7	14.0	10.8	5.2
Physics	245,218	9.1	14.5	21.1	19.7	16.9	12.0	5.8
Sciences	113,091	4.6	8.1	15.8	21.5	21.6	17.5	9.0
Social Science	10,959	4.1	1.1	15.0	13.9	17.7	19.3	12.2
Sciences	867,076	8.3	13.0	21.5	19.5	16.0	12.5	7.0
Modern Languages	324,255	20.1	14.9	15.9	17.7	14.4	11.4	4.6

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## Unsuccessful candidates get plea warning

Disappointed GCSE candidates should not make frivolous appeals against their results and clog up the system for genuine cases, examination boards urged yesterday.

They said unsuccessful appeals taken to the limit could cost up to £100 because of the scale of accumulating charges. More than 60,000 GCSE candidates, almost one in 10 of those who sat for the controversial exam, could appeal against their results after they receive them today.

Mr John Edmundson, secretary of the GCSE joint council, said that about 0.8 per cent of O level and CSE exams taken last year were queried by candidates, a big increase on previous years.

If that was carried through to the first GCSE, with 700,000 candidates sitting for 5.3 million separate exams, the five boards in England and Wales could find themselves dealing with about 60,000 appeals.

Mr Edmundson said: "The joint council would not wish to have its appeals procedure clogged up with a range of frivolous queries which would block legitimate appeals".

Exam officials have admitted privately that this is a possibility as the GCSE is new and parents and candidates are sensitive about it. However, only a small number of appeals succeed.

The Midland examining group said that less than one in five appeals were successful last year. They can be made only with the support of schools or colleges.

Pressure from teaching unions and parents led to the joint council halving the cost of final appeals from £100 to £50 last June. However, this does not include a further sliding scale of charges.

The Southern examining group appeals procedure, which follows roughly the same principle and prices as others, charges £33 for a clerical re-check, a re-mark of all examined and assessed work and a detailed report.

If parents or candidates are still dissatisfied, they may make a final appeal to the joint council at an additional cost of £50, leaving unsuccessful applicants with bills of up to £100. Charges are returnable if appeals are upheld or if the boards feel the appeal was not a waste of time.

## Degree courses

## Times guide aids clearing students

By Sam Kiley, Universities Reporter

Polytechnic and university switchboards have been jammed by sixth formers hoping to pick up spare places through the clearing process run by the University Central Council on Admissions and the Polytechnic Central Admission System.

Students unable to go to their first choice institution because of lower than expected grades at A level may be allocated spare places.

For the first time the places were published in *The Times* yesterday morning, in association with *The Times Network Systems* and Midland Bank, and will continue to be published for the next six weeks.

One parent from mid-Wales took a train to London on Tuesday night to buy a first edition of the paper, printed at about 10pm, in an attempt to put her daughter ahead of the field.

Mr Tony Higgins, director of the polytechnic service, said: "There has been a really heavy avalanche of calls to institutions advertising vacancies".

He said he suspected that pressure had eased on other information sources this year because places were published in *The Times*.

"We have had over 1,500 calls to PCAS, mostly general enquiries. In addition the information line has received about 2,000 and the polytechnics too many to calculate. The media in general has offered excellent advice to students, and this is reflected in the maturity of questions being asked", he said.

Mr Philip Oakley, head of the university council, said institutions wanted to be flexible about admissions to faculties and so were not publishing vacancies under specific subject headings.

"Students should keep a close eye on the points required for courses — 5 for an A, 1 for an E — they may go down", he said yesterday.

## Bishop retires as education leader

By Our Education Editor

The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, who led the campaign to insist that daily Christian assemblies and the extension of the teaching of Christianity in state schools were written into the Education Reform Act, is to retire as the chairman of the Church of England's board of education.

Dr Leonard, aged 67, has been Bishop of London since 1981 and chairman of the education board for five years. He said yesterday that he would resign at the end of October to allow his successor to be appointed in good time for the election of the new Church of England synod in 1990.

The Bishop, who also sits in the House of Lords, led church negotiations with Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, on the Bill before it received the Royal Assent last month.

It is unlikely, however, that he will fade from the headlines. He is one of the main campaigners against the ordination of women priests, an issue that is deeply dividing the Church of England.

## University's TV debut

The University of Liverpool has recruited leading members of Merseyside's media in an attempt to attract more students to its department of continuing education.

Mr Willy Russell, author of *Edna Rave*, the play about a young Liverpool woman's experiences of tertiary education, will present a television commercial for the department on Channel Four on Monday.

According to the head of the department, Dr Geoff Woodcock, this is probably the first time a university has used television to advertise its services.

In addition to Mr Russell, Liverpool has been able to use the services of the Mersey Television Company which filmed much of the 30-second commercial on the set of the television series, *Brookside*.

The idea of the advertisement is to increase the number of unqualified students attending extra-mural classes.

## Marconi death blamed on pressure of work

A former Army brigadier with access to secret files on Ministry of Defence contract work on a revolutionary new gun for the Armed Forces has become the sixth employee of the Marconi group of companies to die or disappear in unusual circumstances in the past two years.

Security services looking for links between the series of seemingly unconnected suicides and sudden deaths among nine defence workers, including senior scientists, were informed.

The death of Mr John Ferry, aged 60, an assistant marketing director with special responsibility for liaison with the Armed Forces at the Marconi Command and Control Systems at Farnley, Surrey, is not being linked with the others by police.

His widow Ann, aged 57, of Stepple Ashton, near Trowbridge, Wiltshire, said last night that the pressure of his secret work may have contributed to his death.

Mr Ferry, a father of four, had worked for Marconi for seven years and was chairman of the Nato industrial advisory group. He was found in a company flat at Farnley after he had committed himself to the electricity mains.

He had returned to work earlier this week after a car crash three weeks ago in which he was nearly killed.



Beyond the Quayle furore, historians have been noting that military service, and particularly combat duty, has been a key qualification for successful presidential candidates throughout American history. A string of candidates have lost elections after controversy about their military inexperience.

to warn the Polish authorities that its trading relations with Britain would be damaged if it tried to crush Solidarity.

"My opponents can't get elected unless things get worse," he added. "And things aren't going to get worse



she found on arrival that a box she had packed with food instead contained pieces of metal.

## Landmines in

The municipality had been working closely with the police since June when the fraud squad had alerted it to what was going on.

crossing the border, and there may not be many of the estimated population of 100,000 in the two worst affected communes of Ntégwa

domination may have been stifled in 1972, when the Tutsi massacred an estimated 100,000 of them, but the resentment has remained.

The municipality had been working closely with the police since June when the fraud squad had alerted it to what was going on.



## Cyprus leaders set June deadline for settling differences

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Geneva

At an historic first meeting, leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus agreed in Geneva yesterday to try to settle their differences by next June 1.

President Vassiliou of Cyprus, and Mr Rauf Denktas, President of the self-proclaimed Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is recognized only by Turkey, were brought together by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General.

They agreed to begin talks on September 15 at the Leda Palace Hotel on the "Green Line" dividing the two communities, a venue which has featured in previous talks.

Although many earlier attempts to reconcile the two sides have come to nothing, there was greater confidence yesterday. In a joint statement read by Señor Pérez de Cuéllar after the meeting, they said that they felt it had created "a new opportunity for finding a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problems".

Later the two men held a second meeting with the Secretary-General. The atmosphere, believed by most observers to be the real test of

progress, was far better than at previous meetings between Mr Denktas and Mr Vassiliou's predecessors.

The smiles were warm, the Chablis at lunch was cold, and a handshake staged for photographers looked cordial, albeit prompted by the Secretary-General who, uncharacteristically, himself managed a brief smile.

The reopening of the Cyprus talks after a two-year stalemate, was the third diplomatic triumph for the UN in four months, coming after the Geneva accords on Afghanistan in April and the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq War.

Seated side-by-side at a round table in the Czech Salon at the UN Palais des Nations, the two men discussed their differences over lunch.

It was a much greater success than in 1978 when Dr Kurt Waldheim, then Secretary-General, tried a similar exercise involving Mr Kyprianou. Recalling what proved to be a disastrous occasion, Mr Denktas told *The Times* yesterday: "Nothing came of it because he would not talk or smile. When the journalists said 'Mr Kyprianou, would

you smile?', he retorted 'I smiled a minute ago'."

The two men met again in New York in 1985, again at the Secretary-General's invitation, but matters were no better. "In New York, if we met in the corridor, he would go into the nearest toilet to avoid me," Mr Denktas said.

Anxious to avoid similar mishaps, all three parties co-operated to avoid an accidental meeting before yesterday's lunch. The two men have been staying at the same hotel, two floors apart, but managed not to bump into each other.

Precise instructions were sent to both delegations on when they should leave the Intercontinental Hotel for the UN. But the best-laid plans can go awry, and when they did yesterday *The Times* had something to do with it.

President Vassiliou descended a few moments ahead of schedule and fell into conversation with your correspondent at the top of an escalator. Mr Denktas, arriving a few moments late, had to brush past him to use it.

The two men exchanged glances but did not speak.

Leading article, page 13

### Denktas demands guarantees

## Obstacles loom as talks try to break deadlock

From Andrew McEwen, Geneva

The carefully stage-managed meeting yesterday between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities was devised by The United Nations Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, as a way of making a fresh start after 14 years of fruitless attempts to settle the Cyprus dispute.

But interviews conducted by *The Times* with both leaders show that, while a symbolic start has been made, difficult and probably long negotiations lie ahead.

Although the two sides have agreed to work towards a federal system with separate identities for the two communities, virtually all the details remain in dispute.

There is also a wide difference of approach. While

must know that we cannot go below this on any issue," he said. Mr Vassiliou grimaced when told of this. The plan contains elements which all Greek Cypriot parties have rejected, and if Mr Denktas is in earnest it will be a serious obstacle.

Mr Denktas also insisted that any new agreement between the two sides should be backed by international guarantees. Without them, he said, "it would not be worth the paper it was written on".

He believes that the guarantees should come from Britain, Greece and Cyprus, the three countries which agreed to be guarantors to the 1960 constitution. Technically the agreement still stands, although in practice it is a dead letter.

Mr Vassiliou replied that if Mr Denktas insisted on guarantees they should be effective, and the history of Cyprus since 1974 had shown that they were not.

"The best guarantees would come from the Security Council, possibly with Greece and Turkey added later," he said. Mr Denktas argued that it would be too time-consuming to change the guarantors, which would involve separate negotiations with each country. But he agreed that the 1960 guarantees had never worked in practice.

"In 1973 when we needed Britain to move, (Archbishop Makarios was saying that you (Britain) have no right to intervene," he said.

At the time a Greek-backed coup in Cyprus was correctly thought to be imminent and it took place on July 15, 1974, when both Greek Cypriot and Greek troops overthrew the Government of Archbishop Makarios. Mr Nicos Sampson, a leader of the Eoka-B terrorist movement, was installed as President, which in turn precipitated a Turkish invasion.

But Mr Denktas said that Turkey acted alone only because Britain failed to live up to its obligations as a guarantor. "In 1974 Turkey appealed to Britain to do it together, but Britain refused again," he said.

The House of Commons select committee on Cyprus supported this view in a report published in 1976. In a bitter criticism of the Labour Government of Mr James Callaghan it said: "Britain had a legal right to intervene, she had a moral obligation to intervene. She did not intervene for reasons which the Government refuses to give."

Mr Denktas said Britain's role as guarantor came about only because it has military bases on the island, but so they are all in the southern Greek Cypriot part it has been unable to use its powers.

"Britain is more or less a hostage in the hands of the Greek Cypriots because of the position of the British bases and cannot do much, except to infuse some cool-headedness," he said. "Nevertheless, we have no objection to Britain continuing as a guarantor power."

The British Government has hinted recently that it would wish to continue its role in the event of a new agreement.



Mr Denktas: Insists 1986 formula is his bottom line.

Mr George Vassiliou, who was elected President in February, wants to come to the talks as a fresh face with new ideas and no preconceptions. Mr Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, approaches them with a background of 30 years' continuous experience.

He was already a senior figure in his community before the 1960 constitution, in which Britain played an important role, and he has led it throughout the period since 1974 when the island was partitioned in all but name.

In an interview with *The Times* in his 16th floor hotel suite overlooking Lake Geneva, before the deadline was set for a resolution of the island's differences, Mr Denktas made it clear that he was not prepared to drop positions he has adopted with Mr Vassiliou's predecessors.

He made a substantial concession to enable yesterday's meeting to go ahead, but in the interview he sought to limit its impact.

When Señor Pérez de Cuéllar first suggested the lunch, three months ago, Mr Denktas replied that he would be willing to attend provided that the meeting was on the basis of the last UN plan put forward in March, 1986, which he accepted at the time.

He views this as an agreement which the Greek Cypriots repudiated at the last moment, while the other side claims that it has no legal status. He told *The Times* that although he had agreed to drop his precondition, he has not abandoned the substance of the 1986 plan.

"The 1986 paper indicates the lowest line to which we shall be pushed, Mr Vassiliou

## Sudan Government attacked over flood relief distribution

## Critics say censors will hide plight of homeless

From Catherine Bennett, Khartoum

As the full extent of Sudan's new censorship regulations became clear yesterday, it was increasingly unclear how the Ministry of Information could enforce them.

Mr Abdula Muhammad Ahmed, the Minister for Culture and Information, specified that all material leaving the country would be read, but few of the ministry's civil servants have enough English to monitor an interview or check copy.

Moreover, there is as yet no system for providing the written permission requested for every interview, whether its subject is a Sudanese government official or a displaced southerner.

Although the minister was planning to explain censorship details at an afternoon tea party for the foreign media, interviews proceeded unchecked yesterday.

Mr Lino Todo, emergency relief officer for the Sudan Council of Churches, one of the country's largest non-governmental relief organisations, said he would continue to offer his opinion to anyone who wanted it.

He thought the new regulations betrayed a government wish to conceal the problem of

the 1.5 million displaced people from the south and west of the country. Their recent suffering has drawn unwelcome attention to the divisions between north and south and the continuing flow of civil war refugees.

Mr Todo said his organization had been working with the displaced people before the flood. While aid coming in would not be affected, he predicted that the Government would try to make it difficult for non-governmental relief workers to operate in refugee camps. The Government was aware of the extent of the problems, Mr Todo said, but had left the care of political refugees and those made homeless by the floods around Khartoum in the hands of non-governmental agencies.

Mr Todo accused the Government of doing nothing to help the refugees and said some official refugee camps had still not received any aid.

His criticism was echoed at the headquarters of the opposition. A secretary forecast demonstrations and said: "We are tired of hearing lies. People are tired of hearing about aid and not receiving it."

Although the mud and sea-

age is now drying up, the non-governmental agencies are still asking for relief supplies for the homeless, and estimate that only 10-15 per cent of the needs have been met.

On Tuesday night Mr Peter Shumann, the UN's deputy resident representative in Khartoum, forecast "severe shortage" unless more assistance was generated.

But the agencies yesterday were still concerned about how best to distribute existing relief among a population so desperate that fighting breaks out when aid lorries appear. In the north distribution is only just beginning in the flooded areas around Dongola where thousands are reported to have been made homeless.

Aid agencies, fearful of upsetting relations with the Government, were reluctant to comment on the possible effects of press censorship on appeals for funds. But Mr Michael Dixon, Information Officer of the British Embassy in Khartoum, said a lot of coverage had already been given by the media.

"This has evoked a lot of sympathy and I don't think that any substantial restriction on press reporting would damage that strength of feeling."



A mother carrying drinking water distributed by fire engines in flood-hit Khartoum, where sewage contaminated the Nile.

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## Singapore campaign gets under way

With nine days of campaigning due to start today, the two largest opposition groups, the Workers' Party and the Singapore Democratic Party, are fielding 32 and 18 candidates respectively. Twenty-one candidates representing five other opposition parties are also standing, along with four independents.

### POST STRIKE

Ottawa — Nearly 6,000 Canadian post office workers launched a strike over job security guarantees and pay.

# Cambodia issue on Takeshita's Peking agenda

## Defence changes after submarine

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## SPECTRUM

# Ready for the greater race

Sebastian Coe is not in the least misshapen, nor is this the winter of his discontent, merely the summer. But Coe can be compared to Richard III in one respect: both men are in thrall to their own ambition. There is no liberation to be had from this, only the acceptance of its imperatives.

So strong is the will to walk, or run, on the highest ramparts of office, that men like this will bring every facet of their character, every contour of their being, into line with the dictates of that will. Their resources of skill, strength, timing and guileful populism are immense, and they get their crown in the end. Precisely what this crown consists of for a beleaguered man nearing the end of a career spent running in measured circles we shall see very soon.

Even if Coe were, like Richard, ultimately to come a cropper, he would be unlikely to make wild offers in return for a getaway horse, since he can run like the wind: this, of course, is the first, but by no means the last, reason for his being so famous, and so rich, while still so young.

For one as used as he is to success, the failure to qualify for the British Olympic team at the Birmingham trials was hard enough, even though he had known he might not make it. What hurts more are the remarks of outraged fellow athletes who do not enjoy his link with the highest pinnacle of sports administration, the presidency of the International Olympic Committee, and in its present incumbent, Señor Juan Antonio Samaranch.

It was Samaranch who, in the eyes of the affair's many hostile critics, seemed to move the finishing tape by issuing a personal invitation to Coe to go to Seoul as defending holder of the 1,500 metres title — if necessary, according to some stories, wearing the colours of the Olympic movement rather than those of his national team.

The story of Coe and Seoul is, however, merely a single chapter in a far more momentous tale which has much unfolding yet to do. How Coe acquires himself over the coming weeks, more in the

## THE TIMES PROFILE

### SEBASTIAN COE

moral row about his eligibility than in any races he might or might not run, will prove vital to his public image and so to his political future. For politics is now what this former president of the Loughborough University Conservative Association is all about.

If he emerges with credit from the affair — and there are many ways in which he might yet achieve this — 1988 will represent not the end of his decade as a competitor at the highest level, but his *annus mirabilis* in public life.

Privately his friends and associates believe that if he were now to declare an interest in standing for Parliament, Conservative Central Office would dance with delight. Apart from being greatly admired by the Prime Minister for his robust anti-drugs stance, he is also quite close to Colin Moynihan, the Sports Minister, who is just one year older and an Olympic rowing silver medal winner at the 1980 Moscow Games, the meeting at which Coe won the gold at 1,500 metres and silver at 800 metres against British rival, Steve Ovett.

If he wanted it badly enough, his supporters say, he could himself be Sports Minister, or something like it, in five years. No wonder that even the well-established Moynihan is becoming wary of his fleet-footed contemporary.

In fact, Coe's ambitions are grander than that. Already he is vice-chairman of the Sports Council, where he works for an average of two and a half days a week for a salary of £10,600, which is a fraction of his earnings from commercial endorsements and the appearance fees mounting up in his trust fund. He has also recently become a member of the Health Education Authority.

That is already a substantial curriculum vitae in the politics of sport. The irony is that he should have got so far quite so soon, for in criticizing the administration of British athletics he has inevitably put a whole row of noses out of joint, from the Olympic selectors to the British Amateur Athletic Board. The idea that the board's overruling of his initial inclusion by their selectors as a member of the middle-distance squad for Seoul was some kind of nemesis is unprovable; as conspiracy theories go, though, there have been lamer runners.

Most significantly, he is the athletes' representative at the IOC, and as such the conduit for a torrent of opinions. He was greeted with utter rapture when he delivered his denunciation of the abuse of drugs by sportsmen at the committee's conference at Baden-Baden in 1981.

It is in this involvement with sports administration at the global level that the key to Coe's future can be found. There are at present just under 100 members of the IOC: the major Olympic nations each have two. One of Britain's two is Princess Anne, who has just taken over from the retiring Lord Luke. The other is the former Olympic fencer Mary Glen Haig, who is now aged 70. The informed rumour is that Samaranch would like Coe to be her successor. If that is the case, his eventual appointment is all but a formality.

Through his personal invitation to Coe to take part, Samaranch was revealing publicly what everyone around him, and around Coe, knew already: that he had become a godfather figure to the athlete. This was a post held throughout Coe's youth by his own father and trainer, Peter Coe, a former factory manager in Sheffield.

Coe senior motivated, encouraged, supported and cajoled his *wunderkind* through and beyond the great triumphs of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The boy had to grow up. Like many prodigious sportsmen, one part of this maturity was achieved through the sheer educative experience of running round the world, and yet he never really



### BIOGRAPHY

1956: Born in Chiswick, west London. Educated in Sheffield and at Loughborough University (Economics and History).  
1977: European indoor 800 metres champion.  
1980: Olympic 1500 metres champion. Silver medallist at 800 metres.  
1981: World 800 metres record.

1981-84: Chairman of the Sports Council's Olympic Review Group.  
1984: First man to retain 1500 metres Olympic title. Silver at 800 metres again.  
1985: Elected athletes' representative on IOC.  
1988: Came fourth in Olympic 1500 metres trial. Left out of team.

broke free from his father until he was 28 or 29. Today at Haringey, the London athletics club to which Coe belongs, his guiding light is a man called John Hovell, a coach of 50 years' standing.

It is in the company of Hovell and the club's middle-distance runners that Coe finds his camaraderie. Always a private man, and selective to the point of seeming aloof, it is here on Sunday mornings, elbow and splattered by the bigger men in the winter mud, that he has found the nearest thing possible to his peer group. He cannot help being *primus inter pares*, but let him even try to put on airs and graces and they will have him.

He is generally thought to be worth £1 million; he could be worth £10 million; he could be worth £100 million. But the so-called supermarket circuit, opening this centre or speaking at that function, has never appealed. He still keeps up with a close student friend from Loughborough, who is now a teacher and social worker, and he still listens to jazz and supports Chelsea Football Club.

He was always one for the ladies, particularly when his father

wasn't looking, and wooed Jane Bevan, the girl with whom he now lives in Twickenham, with gentlemanly ardour. It was one he was determined to win.

If the corridors of power were constructed on an oval pattern, Coe would almost always draw the inside track. But however he fares among the jostlers of the political pack, nobody can take from him the unique achievement of two gold and two silver medals in this most important pair of Olympic events, nor that of having spearheaded a decade of British supremacy in middle distance

running. Perhaps only Lasse Viren, the Finn who won gold and silver at both 5,000 and 10,000 metres in 1972 and 1976 can be said to have outstripped that. Despite the apparent setbacks of this week, the moment could not be riper for his ascent, for he is the embodiment of the Thatcherite ideal of sport: clean, straight, forthright, clever, a bit of a Yuppie. It is as well that he has had this training session in controversy, for there will be plenty more of it where he is going.

Alan Franks

The vision of Britain's youth going reluctantly to work in industrial towns and cities only because there is no work in a countryside rich in fresh air and cheaper housing is a myth. In an astonishing reversal of the modern, enforced exodus from agricultural to urban employment, there are now more rural jobs than there are qualified applicants for them.

So critical has the imbalance become that the Harper Adams Agricultural College in Newport, Shropshire, is to host a conference next month for school sixth formers in an attempt to redress a nationwide decline in the number of students looking for careers on — or to do with — the land.

"Throughout the 1970s, when the Green movement was sweeping right through Europe, all sorts of people wanted to get away from the towns and into the countryside," says Tony Harris, principal of the college.

"During those years there was a lot of recruitment from the urban areas.

## How ya gonna keep 'em down..?

There are now more rural jobs than there are qualified applicants to fill them. This shortage is attributed largely to some city folk thinking that farming is hardly required any more

"Then about two or three years ago farming, which most people saw as the main employer, became less popular. From being regarded as the great industry to help us all, an image of subsidies, over-production and chemical pollution brought a sense of disenchantment."

Although Harris says a national decline of up to 30 per cent in agricultural college recruitment is due partly to a fall in the number of school leavers, there is an urgent need to acknowledge rural Britain being more than "pure" farm production.

"Although production agriculture courses are still crucial, colleges are diversifying much more into such things as forestry, horticulture and horse management," he says. "Rural employment nowadays should be thought of more as the management of open space, not forgetting countryside parks, National Trust and coastal areas."

"None of our graduates has any difficulty finding careers to go into... there are more jobs available than are being filled."

The dwindling of the great rural dream is readily confirmed by Vic Hughes, principal of the

Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. "There is a general perception among people outside farming that farming is hardly required any longer," he says. "The fall in the number of applicants... is largely because school leavers think they can go in for only farm production and that there is little future in that direction."

"The production side is always going to be a large part of what goes on in the countryside but people just don't appreciate how many other opportunities there are in land surveying and the management of woodlands, amenities and the

environment in general. We are fortunate in having had for the past 50 years a land management department. In fact, land management in its broadest sense represents about 55 per cent of the college programme, and we are introducing more of this area of study into our general agriculture courses."

So, are the wealthy city people, constantly blamed for pumping up rural property prices by looking for second houses in the country or living as long-distance commuters, being falsely blamed for the flight from the countryside of its traditional population?

"The popular image today is of farmers being feather bedded by subsidies and I'm afraid it's quite true that the word agriculture is getting a bad name," says Allan Wright, BBC Radio's farming editor. "Many universities are now having to change the name of their courses to such things as Agriculture and Farm Management, and Agriculture and Land Use... to attract students."

William Greaves

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## SCIENCE REPORT

### Some fresh hope for acid waterways

Researchers in Norway now have positive evidence that the acidification of lakes and rivers, which has caused severe losses of fish stocks in northern Europe and eastern North America, can be reversed. This will confound many scientists who predicted that lakes, once acidified, would remain so. Researchers also find that in the areas studied, acid rain alone is responsible for acidification.

Because acid waters are generally found in areas with acid soils, some argue that acidification is caused by changes in the terrestrial ecosystem. This controversy has raged over the past 15 years or so, stimulating much research into the effects of acid rain on soils, lakes and streams.

Studies of soil chemistry have given convincing evidence that acid rain is the cause of the transfer of acidity from soils to surface waters then to the lakes and rivers. But one of the critical questions which remains is how quickly, and to what extent, the damaged ecosystems respond to changes in acid deposition.

Writing in this week's *Nature*, Richard F. Wright, of the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, and his colleagues, at the Norwegian Institute for Air Research and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, report the findings of a project called Rain (Reversing Acidification in Norway), which examines the links between acid rain and acidification of rivers and lakes. It consists of two large-scale



experiments, one at Sogndal, in western Norway, and the other at Risdalsheia in southern Norway.

At Sogndal, where rain is not naturally acidic, sulphuric and nitric acids are artificially added to it in order to assess the effects of acid rain on a clean environment. At Risdalsheia, one of the areas worst affected by acid rain, the rain is excluded from a small water drainage area by a transparent roof; this rain is then purified to a pre-acid condition and sprinkled on the protected catchment. As a reference, two catchments of similar size are monitored: both receive acid rain, one with a roof and the other without.

Since the input of acid rain at Sogndal began, in April 1984, the runoff (surface water leaving the drainage area) has

been monitored for changes in chemical composition. The researchers find that the runoff has become acidic and rich in aluminium and hydrogen ions, both of which are toxic to fish. And, significantly, these changes take place more rapidly than some researchers predicted. This latest work concludes that no other environmental factor is responsible for the acidification.

At Risdalsheia, too, there have been changes in the chemical composition of the runoff, and these give positive indications of the complete reversibility of the effects of acid deposition. The decreases in acid deposition has led to a decrease in the level of acid ions in the runoff which is starting to recover to pre-acidification levels.

Though major changes in the chemistry at both sites already have occurred, changes are still taking place and continued monitoring should determine whether a complete reversal of acidification is possible. This work is conclusive proof of reversibility, as suggested by evidence from North America, Canada and Scotland (see *Science Report*, April 11).

Together, the experiments provide a unique database for studying changes in soil chemistry. With Rain, the response of ecosystems to reductions in the emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides can be better understood and better forecast.

Philippa Lloyd

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Peaceful port: Cherbourg, a gateway to the beauties of the Cotentin peninsula

## Off to oyster beds

Bargain day trips are available to readers of *The Times* for three months this autumn, from Sunday, September 18 right through to Sunday, December 18, on all seven of P & O European Ferries' routes to France and Belgium (destinations are Calais, Boulogne, Cherbourg, Le Havre, Zeebrugge and Ostend). The fares are the same for long or short sea crossings: £5 per passenger (children under four free) and £10 per vehicle up to a maximum of 5.5 metres in length, with £10 extra to pay per vehicle if you wish to travel on a Saturday.

For those wishing to travel from Portsmouth the choice is between the French ports of Le Havre and Cherbourg. Le Havre is a modern city with first class shopping, and a good springboard for the white cliffs along the coast to Etretat and Fecamp. The picturesque port of Honfleur and the Calvados country on the

other side of the Seine estuary. Cherbourg is a complex little town and gateway to the beauties of the Cotentin peninsula which include the wild and rocky coast from Cap de la Hague to the Nez de Jobourg, the sleepy fishing port of Barfleur and the oyster beds of St Vaast-la-Hougue. Tomorrow we print the

final voucher and the application form on which bookings must be made. Three vouchers must accompany each booking application. When choosing the dates on which you would like to travel, bear in mind that November 1 and 11 are public holidays in both France and Belgium, when most shops will be closed.



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## HEALTH

هكمان الأهل

**Hospital patients like visitors but do they like them if they are there all day long? Liz Gill reports on an experiment that ended in disaster**

The old *Doctor in the House* films always seemed to have a visiting hours scene. Hordes of anxious relatives, penned until the last minute behind closed doors, would surge down the ward to snatch a few brief moments with their loved ones before being shouted out by a stern-faced, bell-ringing sister.

The scene was comic on film but often heart-breaking in real life. A government paper was produced in 1962 calling for much more liberal arrangements.

A generation on, an increasingly consumer-oriented health service likes to think such regimentation and inflexibility a thing of the past. In fact, tightly-restricted visiting hours are still widespread.

Dr David Griffith, senior medical registrar at the Whittington Hospital in London, recently conducted a survey of 404 general hospitals in the UK and found a quarter of them — representing 42,000 beds — permitted visiting for an average of two hours a day or less.

"I don't know why restrictions on visitors originated. It may have been a question of hygiene in the 19th century," he says. "But if you were introducing a hospital system now it would seem incredible to ask people to accept what is in effect 23 hours a day imprisonment as a condition of medical care."

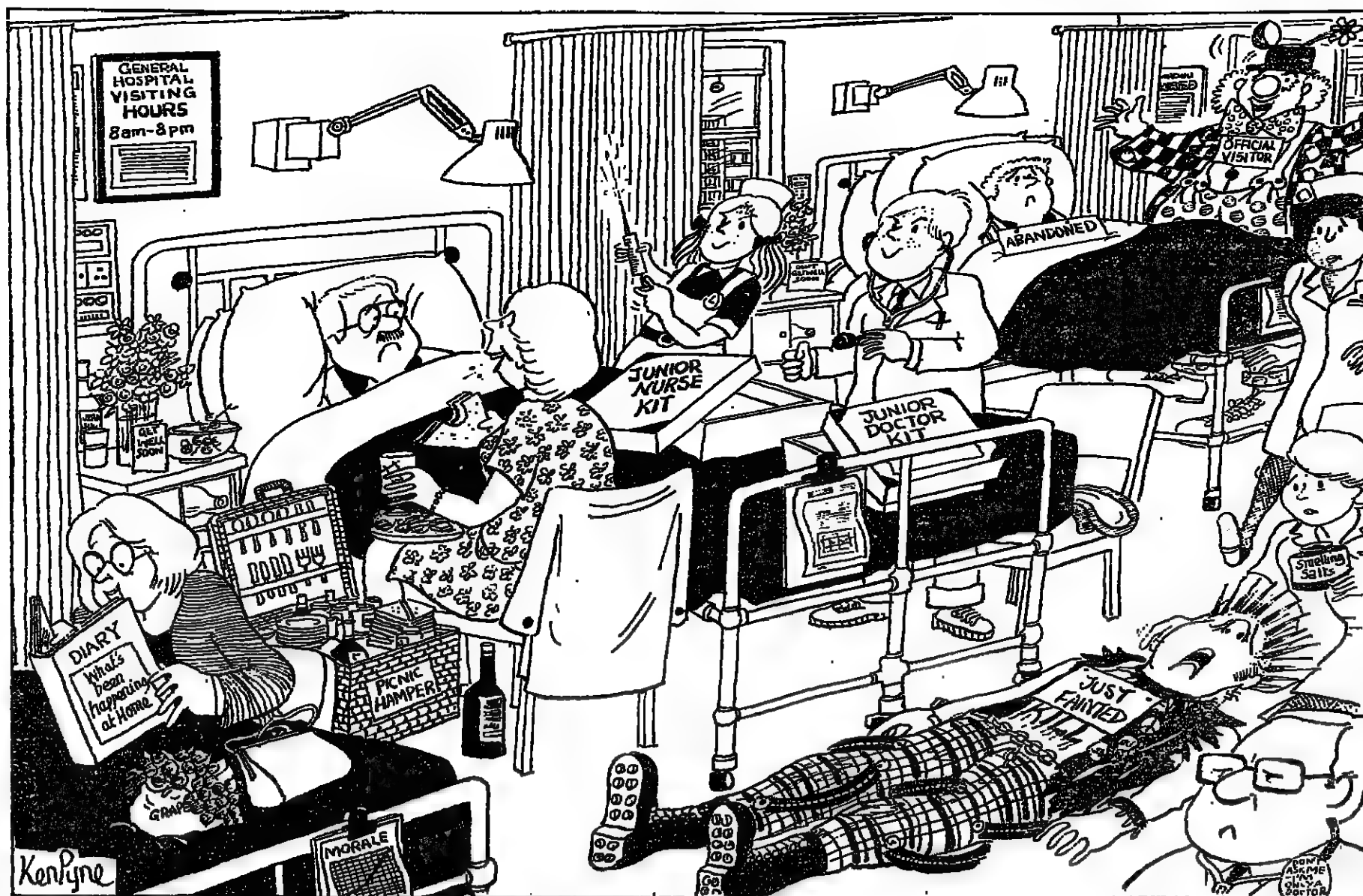
Griffith's survey revealed a striking regional variation — the South East was far more liberal than northern England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"I can't offer any explanation for this but I suspect the reason it happens is inertia and a disinclination to change one's ways. It is for the convenience of the staff."

Griffith, whose own hospital allows visiting between 2pm and 8pm daily, found about 140 other hospitals with a similar arrangement.

"The vast majority seemed to work very successfully. Only about four or five expressed any difficulties. Most were very positive and said how much it was appreciated by the patients."

Griffith believes extended visiting is important on humanitarian grounds — "It seems inhumane to separate for long periods (for



## Open to question?

instance) a couple who have been married 30 years" — and for practical reasons.

He also says it benefits the hospital: staff can use the time to exchange information about a patient with his or her family. Elderly people in particular can often be discharged more quickly when families are taught during visiting hours to continue certain tasks at home. Relatives can also relieve pressures on staff.

"I'm not saying they should take over nursing jobs but you often find, for example, that a relative there at a meal time will want to feed a disabled patient."

The Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales called for "open visiting in all hospitals" in its Patients' Charter two years ago. It wants to see visitors, including children of the family, allowed in between

11am and 9pm "subject to clinical procedures".

"Visitors are crucial for a patient's morale," a spokesman says. "All too often hospitals take no notice of the fact that patients have lives outside to run. Yet it is an extra burden if a patient is worrying that the person coming is losing half a day's pay or having to make special child-care arrangements in order to come at a specific time."

The National Association of Health Authorities also backs maximum flexibility and its project officer, Shushila Patel, is examining the situation for ethnic minorities.

"They can feel particularly intimidated by hospitals, especially children, women and the elderly who are rarely away from home. There might be problems with food or language, even

**'It seems incredible to ask people to accept what is in effect 23 hours a day imprisonment'**

discrimination, so they desperately need their families for support and help."

Jim Goddard, secretary general of the National Association of Leagues of Hospital Friends, says: "The right visit is a great morale booster as long as it's positive and geared to the patient. The last

thing an ulcer patient needs is more worry."

He says he would like to see hours made as convenient as possible in acute short-stay hospitals but accepts there may be a need for more restrictions in long-stay institutions which have lower staffing levels.

But even in low-staff institutions there must be provision for fitting in with a visitor's needs. "With long-stay patients, especially when so many have been virtually abandoned, the chance of a visit must be seized with both hands," Goddard says.

"It makes patients feel they haven't been forgotten, keeps them in touch with the outside world and gives them a status in the ward."

His organization has 1,354 leagues, with 470,000 members putting in 6.5 million hours a year.

Hospital visiting, along with running shops and libraries and raising funds for equipment, is one of their prime areas of activity.

Hospitals vary in the numbers they allow at a bedside but many now permit children of the immediate family. Teenage boys and girls often prove the most vulnerable. According to a Royal College of Nursing spokesman: "Nurses have to be wary of them. They're not as glib as they seem and they're the ones who'll faint first. But generally people are less frightened about hospital visiting these days; they've seen so much on television."

The college supports the general principle of flexible, extended visiting, depending on the type of ward. "For instance, a male orthopaedic ward will have young men who've hurt themselves on motor bikes and who, apart from

broken bones, are healthy whereas a female orthopaedic ward will be full of elderly women having hip replacements who want peace and quiet," the spokesman says.

"Visitors usually want to help and are anxious to please. In our experience, people are at their nicest when visiting hospitals."

Such words have a bitter ring for the 900-bed Arrow Park Hospital in the Wirral which, when it opened in 1982, made a policy decision to allow open visiting from 8am to 8pm.

"We wanted to do things the modern way," says consultant gynaecologist Brian Alderman. "In practice it was the most disastrous thing we could have done."

"People came and camped out at bedheads with their sandwiches and flasks, frequently for the whole day. There was a constant hubbub of noise and often we couldn't get any work done."

"There was at least one occasion where it almost came to violence. We then tried leaving visitors in during rounds but that was even more problematic. In gynaecology, particularly, it's terribly embarrassing. And imagine using a bedpan with lots of people just feet away."

"In the end the demand to change came from the patients, who were absolutely exhausted."

The hospital then tried a two-year period when it allowed visiting from 2pm to 8pm but it was still, Alderman says, "an unmitigated disaster — a shorter span but the same problem."

Again the pressure came from patients, starting with women in the maternity unit. "Even these generally healthy women wanted a quiet hour or two with their babies. Even if you got rid of your visitors you were still stuck with other people's," Alderman says. "So, now we've gone back to the 'old system' and have two short spells afternoon and evening."

"People think they're being kind to their poor loved ones when, in fact, they might be making them or another patient distinctly worse."

"It's hard work making small talk and you can hardly be rude when Mrs Bloggs from next door has been kind enough to pop in and see you."

Supporters of longer visiting hours are unperturbed by Alderman's catalogue of horrors. Griffith has just written to Edwina Currie, the junior health minister, on the subject, pointing out that it is one of the few areas of health care where benefits can be gained without incurring costs.

Griffith says he is surprised at stories of obstreperous visitors. Hospitals are pretty powerful institutions, he says, and if they want to bring their might to bear on individuals they can. Besides, he asks, why should a few exceptions spoil it for everyone?

## Bush's biggest bugbear

Should George Bush win the presidential election, his running mate, Senator Dan Quayle, may be only a bee sting away from the White House. Whereas it would take more than 100 bee stings to endanger most people, it is reported that the Vice-President is one of those unfortunate people to whom a bee buzzing around a picnic doesn't represent merely an irritation but a menace.

He can take consolation in the fact that there are others like him: four times as many Americans die each year from bee stings than from snake bites. The days when first aiders had to remember whether it was bees or wasps which had an alkaline sting are over and they no longer have to search for dock leaves, vinegar or Ricketts blue; the irritation and pain of both stings are now more simply and effectively treated by the application of hydrocortisone or other steroid cream. Locally applied anti-

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

histamine, obtainable over the counter, is helpful but less efficient.

The bee leaves its sting in the victim; this should be removed not by pulling at it, but by gentle scraping. By treating it in this way, the cocktail of enzymes, peptides, and amines which cause the symptoms may be removed intact rather than squeezed into the skin.

American picnicers usually take ice with them and will find that an ice cube will ease irritation. The British, on the other hand, are more likely to have hot water for tea, and they will find that a hot

water pack is better than ice for minimizing pain. The type of trouble which Bush might suffer from is far removed in seriousness from a mere discomfort of a bee sting. Patients who are sensitive to a sting may suffer an allergic reaction, which can vary from mild local swelling with some redness of the eyes and nose and sneezing to itching all over, urticaria ("nettle rash" or "hives") and numbness around the mouth, tightness in the chest, palpitations, faintness and occasional death.

Those who are not captivated by Quayle's smile need not worry, for the President is always accompanied by his aides with the nuclear button. In future, the same aides may have to carry some adrenalin for intravenous hydrocortisone which can be given to prevent the symptoms from recurring.

## Magic stroke

A few weeks ago, after Medical Briefing had carried an item extolling the virtues of hormone replacement therapy for menopausal women, some women asked for further information on the influence of oestrogen and progesterone. It is essential to take both unless a woman has had a hysterectomy, hypertension, heart disease or tension, and several have been prescribed these drugs despite cardiovascular disease. A recent issue of the *British Medical Journal* carried a report from the University of Southern California of a massive study in a Californian retirement community which has demonstrated that the death rate from strokes was more than halved in those elderly women who were taking hormone replacement therapy.

Pulse, a magazine for GPs, has also recently addressed this question and has carried an interview with Mr Malcolm Whitehead, senior lecturer in gynaecology at King's College Hospital, London, who is also convinced of the beneficial effects of HRT on cardiovascular disease in general, as well as strokes in particular. He quotes one recent American study which showed a 17 per cent reduction in cardiovascular disease in women taking the hormones, while another followed over 120,000 nurses which showed a 30 per cent reduction in those cur-

rently taking HRT, and a 10 per cent reduction in those who had taken it earlier.

Research on a further group of older women demonstrates a decrease of 50 per cent in the rate of coronary heart disease in those taking HRT, even in those women who were at special risk from heart disease because they smoke, had high blood pressure, diabetes, angina or a history of previous strokes or heart attacks.

## Peggy's insight

Peggy Archer's recent health problems have helped to increase public awareness of polymyalgia

rheumatica, a comparatively common but little known disease in which early diagnosis is all important or irreversible blindness can follow. Polymyalgia rheumatica is closely related to temporal arteritis. Both conditions attack the over-fifties, becoming progressively more common with advancing age, and are four times as common in women as in men. Peggy Archer, therefore, is typical of the 24 per 100,000 people who suffer from the disease annually. The onset is sometimes gradual, sometimes acute, and starts as a flu-like illness with temperature, fever, loss of appetite, generalized weakness and aches and pains. The patient often feels too weak and ill to carry on with usual activities and these symptoms may be so ill-defined that he or

she hasn't even analysed them. Recently an elderly travel agent's only complaint was that he felt so feeble that he couldn't get out of bed, let alone play his daily round of golf. Only on questioning did he admit to a weakness of his arms and pains in his neck and shoulders — symptoms that are characteristic of the complaint. In temporal arteritis the same general symptoms occur, but the dominating feature is an inflammation of the arterial walls usually affecting the cranial arteries, and thereby causing a severe headache. But occasionally the coronary arteries are also involved and can produce anginal pains. The throbbing headache of temporal arteritis is complicated by tenderness of the scalp, so that it becomes painful to brush and comb the hair. A particularly dangerous signal is any blurring of the vision, for if the arterial supply to the retina is cut off the blindness may be irreversible. In both diseases a simple blood test, the ESR, which measures the time red blood cells take to settle in a thin tube, is carried out. Both illnesses can be readily treated; the response to steroids is magical. For instance, within a fortnight of treatment the travel agent was back on the golf course and Peggy Archer soon returned to interfering with All the Bull. Prednisone by mouth is all that is needed to treat polymyalgia rheumatica, but if temporal arteritis is suspected an initial dose of hydrocortisone by injection can be sight saving.

Steroids are slowly reduced but a constant check has to be kept on symptoms and the ESR. If there is any relapse, the dose of steroids has to be increased and the symptoms disappear once again.

## Mother's milk

All those who have felt entitled to advise the Duchess of York on how to feed her baby should read the

review in the *British Medical Journal* by Dr Frank Hyttan, previously head of perinatal medicine at the Clinical Research Centre in Harrow, of the book *Infant Feeding: Anatomy of a Controversy*. All doctors would agree that there are advantages to breast-feeding if the woman is able to achieve it easily, enjoys it and if the baby sucks well. But most would also agree that each case has to be considered individually, and to destroy the happiness a mother might feel in her newborn child by exerting unreasonable pressure on her to breast-feed, or by suggesting that her inability to do so will deprive her baby, is unforgivable and likely to cause lasting damage to the mother-child relationship. In his review Dr Hyttan analyses the social history of breast-feeding this century and discusses the extraordinary vendetta waged by political activists, consumer groups and avant-garde churchmen against manufacturers of artificial milk.

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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

I have bought a sphygmomanometer. You are the first people I have told, because I cannot pronounce it. My lips start to break up between syllables three and four. In order to buy it at all I had to point at it, mutely, in John Bell & Croyden, suppliers of medical ironmongery to the carriage trade, therefore incurring one of those herringbone glances woven from pity and derision which expert salespersons deploy against inept buyers.

"Are you a doctor, sir?" he said. Do you know the shop? It is in Wigmore Street, a galleon's throw from Marylebone's — quite literal — fleshpots, and is in consequence packed with smug coves in three-piece worsted, trifling about for chic surgical gawags. Thus, when someone says, "Are you a doctor, sir?" in a voice loud enough to be overheard, it is not unlike having someone say, "Are you a member, sir?" when you are trying to sidle into the Athenaeum on the sly. People look up.

"Not entirely," I replied. Under pressure, I tend, if not to crack, to buckle a bit. It was, I realised as soon as it hit the air, not the best answer, conjuring up as it did an image of someone about to park a battered caravan in Harley Street, nail a barber's pole to it, and begin stimulating phagocytes for spot cash.

"What I meant, sir, was do you want a professional instrument, or a home monitor?"

"I want to keep an eye on my blood-pressure," I said.

This time, I said it very quietly. Who could guess the lengths to which eavesdropping high-rent consultants might go when their bread-mouth ratio was threatened by DIY enthusiasts? They might not only have fallen on me and torn me limb from limb, they might also have sent in a huge bill for the professional service thus rendered.

It turns out to be a little cracker: fits the bicep as if bespoke, and emits a robust yet unhygienic beep when reaching its systolic and diastolic poles. Also, a little red light goes on. It is astonishing what they can do for £49.95 these days.

All this started a week ago, when I disembarked from holiday feeling fit as a flea, and cannyly hurried round to the GP for my annual check-up before things could start going wrong and possibly require unsavoury new lozenges or expensive poking about. It was not, however, as smart a move as planned. My blood-pressure turned out to be unacceptably up. I could not account for this except by reflecting that one should wait more than 24 hours after paying any French hotel bill, to allow the blood to stop boiling.

Sternly enjoined to have an eye kept on the symptom, I agreed to a monthly examination; but as I walked home past the aforementioned chandlers, it suddenly occurred to me that I could do it myself and save £££s in my own home. So I do; up to twenty times a day.

What fun medicine is! What wonderful kit! Hats with lights on, precision pocket-mallets, shimmering Beano pliers, hand-turned/leather-trimmed optical gadgets against which no orifice can maintain its mystery, elegantly titchy electric saws, tiny anodised cubes in smart polished cases you can see how quacks become hooked, nothing to do with Hippocratic commitments to getting one's fellow man back on his feet in no time, it is all about toy trains.



Obtainability is the time's plague. Engendered by the enterprising culture and exploited by the electronic one, obtainability is the curse which persuades people that they have to be in touch with one another at all times. It has become impossible to escape being got hold of.

Having resisted an answering machine, a carphone, a Telexmail, a mailbox, a personal pager, and all the other wondrous gubbins designed to keep me on inescapable call, I have finally been brought low by the humble Post-It. This is the yellow slip of paper on the gum for which the 3M Corporation spent millions of R & D dollars to ensure it would stick to everything else in the world, enabling urgent messages to be left for those who didn't want them.

They have taken over. I seem unable to go anywhere these days without finding a note stuck to something requiring me to take this or that action or phone this or that person. My family leave them on my shaving-mirror and bedside clock, my staff leave them on my typewriter and Anglepoise, friends and enemies leave them on my car windscreen and front gate, and yesterday new ground was broken when, stuck to my acacia tree, I found a message in garbled pidgin from our Neapolitan jobbing gardener demanding the provision of something which I have so far been unable to decipher.

Worst of all, I cannot now spot one of these horrors without feeling my heart go pit-a-pat. Can they, I wonder, be part of some huge plot engineered by John Bell & Croyden to seduce hypochondriacs?

Baghdad When the negotiators from Iran and Iraq sit down in the old League of Nations building in Geneva today for the first face-to-face negotiations since the Gulf War began eight years ago, the issue will not be peace, but the peacemaking process itself. The real question — whether both sides really want peace — will not be put at all.

Iran will expect the UN officials to have drawn up a series of proposals, aimed at solving the various contentious matters dividing the two, based on Resolution No 598. In particular, they will be anxious to see the boundary question as it affects the Shatt-al-Arab waterway restored to the position that obtained under the 1975 Algiers agreement between the Shah and the then Vice-President, and now President, of Iraq, Saddam Hussein.

Iran will also be eager to get to that chapter of the Resolution under which an impartial commission may be set up to establish the blame for the war.

Iraq, on the other hand, has its own priorities, and is going to want to tackle the issues one at a time. It will want to ensure that first there is an agreement on the freedom of navigation in the Gulf, and will no doubt want to deal with its own warships. Second, it will move to the

exchange of prisoners and, when that is settled, to withdrawal, and so on down the list, ensuring that each objective is completed before the next is broached. The Iraqis so mistrust the motives of the Iraqis that they will not allow themselves to be rushed into an agreement on the Shatt-al-Arab, for example, without cast-iron agreements on non-interference.

This is where the Algiers accord broke down (Iraq said it was abrogated by Iran when the Khomeini Government began once more supporting Iraqi dissidents).

Last week saw a very revealing incident. The ambassadors of the Permanent Member Countries of the Security Council were called in by the Baghdad Foreign Ministry to be shown a two-page note said to have come from the Secretary-General's office in New York. It contained a statement which Señor Perez de Cuellar intended to release at Samarra on August 20, the moment the ceasefire went into

effect. It described how the Secretary-General intended to proceed with the implementation of Resolution 598 after the ceasefire became effective. The Iraqis were furious. "If this statement is made," the ambassadors were said to have been told, "the whole deal is off."

First, they were told, the Secretary-General does not have any right to make a statement on this matter. Second, he does not have the right to make this kind of statement. And, third, if he wished to say anything he should get the approval of the parties concerned.

The next day, the ambassadors were called in again, and incidentally made to wait for two hours while a message was received from New York. This time they were assured that the Secretary-General had agreed not to make the statement. But diplomatic sources in Baghdad also report that Señor Perez de Cuellar said he was "sick and tired" of Iraqi tactics, that he never intended to make any

statement, and that no statement had been prepared.

Two things seem clear. One is that some kind of contingency plan for a statement had been made and circulated in draft form. The second is that the Iraqis are determined to reduce the role of the Secretary-General to a minimum. They do not want UN arbitration. They do not even want UN mediation. What they feel they need is simply UN good offices to bring the two sides together.

To an extent, however, diplomats here agree that the Iraqis have been played on this issue by the Iraqis, and that even the Secretary-General has been forced into the position that whatever he now says makes him appear to support the Iranian point of view.

The Iraqis have wanted to end the war since 1982, but last April the situation began to change dramatically. Perhaps it was Iraq's concentration on improving the quality of its armed forces that began to pay off. The

new Republican Guards began to become a formidable fighting force. At the same time, the Revolutionary Guards in Iran began to lose some of their enthusiasm for the struggle; the cream of the Iranian armed forces had been wasted on the islands before Basra.

When Ayatollah Khomeini was finally persuaded to agree to a ceasefire, the Iraqis felt cheated. Given two more months, the Iraqi President indicated, victory would have been his. It seems clear that he was heavily persuaded by Saudi Arabia, among others, to accept the Iranian olive branch.

But no withdrawals have taken place. No troops have been brought home. In fact, the reverse is true — on both sides. There are concentrations of forces, especially in the Abadan area, which threaten a renewal of hostilities.

President Saddam Hussein cannot bring himself to trust any clerical regime in Iran, even after the Ayatollah may have left the

scene. He is quite right, in the view of many diplomats here, who agree that a regime of mullahs must be an expansionist regime.

Curiously, however, the President has, after some delay, permitted or even encouraged his people to celebrate the ceasefire. Expectations have accordingly been raised. People now talk of liberalization of restrictions, on travel abroad, for instance, and a flood of new consumer items has already begun to appear in the shops (mostly as a result of an order to stop hoarding them).

It will be very difficult for the Iraq Government to return people to a wartime frame of mind.

It is none the less true that after some time the people of the country may turn from renewed consumption to thoughts of political pluralism. At that time, Saddam Hussein may need the stimulus of an external threat once more to bind his country together and to solidify his own support.

The discussions in Geneva will be more than usually difficult. They may not solve anything, certainly they will not solve anything rapidly. In the words of one observer in Baghdad: "What we may see is an extended period in which there is no war in the Gulf, but there is no peace, either."

Michael Hamlyn on the Iran-Iraq talks which open in Geneva today

## Peace in whose time?

Bernard Levin

## Fit for fanatical pursuits

as the basis for their fanatical determination.

It is said that Mr Rowland made a fundamental error, long ago, by selling certain shares that he should have kept, and thus enabling his opponents to outwit him; it may be so — I understand nothing of such matters — and although self-reproach often bites very deep and results in wounds that will not heal, I still don't believe that Mr Rowland's

implacability is only the familiar "I could have kicked myself" and its results.

Lord Forte is not known to have made such a blunder, but he has a parallel ache; when he was bidding to take over the Savoy, the shareholders, voting with their certificates, decided that they would prefer to stay with the present management. That must have been a painful rebuff; but again, I cannot

persuade myself that Lord Forte is so determined only because he was a rejected suitor.

Both lovers have made allegations of illegal conduct on the part of their adversaries; but, high though their respect for the law no doubt is, it is difficult to believe that they are driven by the shock of discovering the possibility that it has been broken. Perhaps an Al-Fayed once put a frog down the back of Mr Rowland's pyjamas; perhaps Lord Forte, many years ago, was mistaken at the Savoy for the newly engaged waiter and told to look sharp; perhaps the two hunters are constantly hearing voices, like St Joan, telling them to go to Reims and crown themselves, rather than the Dauphin, king.

I'll be damned if I know, indeed, I'll be damned if they know by now. Of course, it helps to be as rich as they are; they can indulge all sorts of whim. But the whim, clearly, would be there even if the dream were unattainable through lack of means rather than the enemy's impenetrable defences.

Neither Mr Rowland nor Lord Forte is exactly an eager and

innocent youth (the former is in his early seventies, the latter is 79), but it is noticeable, and surely significant, that both of them are fit and well, and each could be easily thought a dozen years younger; the relentless pursuit of a cause is, notoriously, a most powerful elixir, and from their statements and activities as their wars go on, it is clear that they are bursting with energy and up to their knees in pure adrenalin. But they didn't start hostilities for therapeutic reasons, let alone because they found jogging insufficiently exciting.

Obsession is one of the strangest of human conditions; I may joke about madness, but even the sanest can be mad nor nor west, and many plainly are. For what else is an obsession but a skewed sense of proportion? Obsession could well be defined as the belief that something matters very much when in fact it doesn't matter at all; the obsession, ignoring reality, will give up, give away, give over, everything else, if only the heart's darling can be embraced.

Old men forget, said Henry V, but he was plainly wrong; old men remember, and go on remembering. It is no use my asking Mr Rowland and Lord Forte just why they are so determined to land the fish; Tiny will say he was diddled, and Charlie that he was the victim of prejudice.

Both claims will be perfectly genuine, in the sense that both men profoundly believe the claims to be true, yet they are mistaken, for all that this is no openhearted mine, with the ore to be gathered for the smelting, but a seam that lies far below, where the sunlight of understanding never penetrates.

The hardest thing in the world is to let go, and the longer the hold has lasted, the harder it is; whether the thing is wealth or objects or love or conviction or even life, that remains true. I think it very unlikely indeed that Mr Rowland and Lord Forte are about to embrace Buddhism,

which teaches that only the renunciation of our desires can bring us to the longed-for Nirvana; for the present, at least, the infinitely patient Buddha must face the saddest fact that so far from our two obsessives being made unhappy by their quest, they are plainly thriving on it.

I think it is very likely that if through some coup, or by treachery within the citadel, they would experience a terrible dismay, and, with the engine that drove them so fiercely for so long switched off, would go into a decline.

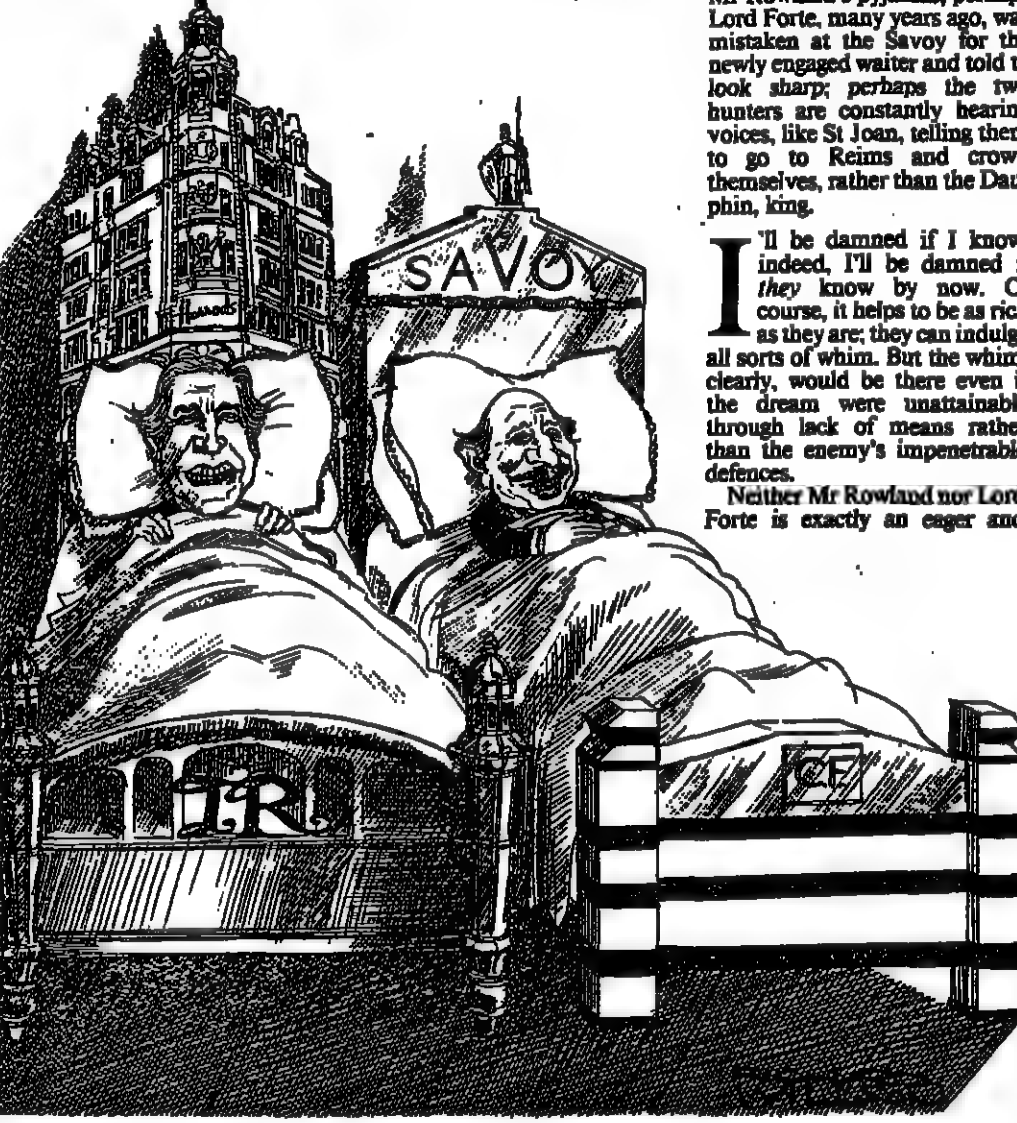
Presumably, both of them would say that they have achieved their great success and wealth by unwavering determination in the pursuit of their goals; I don't doubt it, but have they never heard that useful maxim, enough is enough? Obviously not, for neither of them could or would maintain that he has to have this particular acquisition, because he otherwise fears grinding poverty in his old age.

We can only go round in circles, which is not inappropriate, since both of them are only going round in circles. Why must you have this thing? Because I want it. Why do you want it? Because I must have it. It seems that neither of them reads Omar Khayyam, or at any rate Fitzgerald's version; if they did, they would certainly remember this verse:

How sweet is mortal Sorcery! — think some;  
Others — "How blest the Paradise to come!"  
Ah, take the Cash in hand and waive the Rest;  
Oh, the brave Music of a distant Drum!

But they would take no notice, for it is only the distant drum that they can hear. Did nobody ever tell them, when they were little boys, not to break their drum to find out what, inside it, was making the noise?

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Commentary • RONALD BUTT

## This chronic public mess

An outsider coming new to British politics might be forgiven for assuming from the ineffectiveness of the left that there is no issue on which Mrs Thatcher's ascendancy is assailable. That would be wrong, despite the ineptness of so many of the political attacks on the Government, not least those from bishops alleging the intrinsic selfishness of Thatcherite society. Nor is the case to be answered one that can be dealt with simply by the Prime Minister's belief, valid though it is, in the importance of personal selflessness and responsibility.

The nature of the disease was illustrated by a recent headline in *The Times*: "Hospital kitchens still failing to meet hygiene standards." Used to reading such things, we turn to the next page. But can you imagine seeing it in Germany, Scandinavia or the Netherlands and not being shocked? Where else in western Europe would such a body as the Institution of Environmental Health Officers report that "hundreds of hospitals" were failing to meet food hygiene standards and that more than a hundred had been found to have "significant" pest infestations?

Nor is it only the hospitals' kitchens that are squalid. Many hospitals still have dreary, depressing and shabby admission and casualty areas and even wards. All around is evidence of overworked staff, testimony to which was provided by a notice (hardly reassuring to patients' confidence) on the wall of the admission area of a hospital to which I took a friend in his mid-eighties; it proclaimed that junior hospital doctors should not have to work more than 60 hours a week.

Yet the problem long pre-

dates Thatcherism. When I was preparing a long report on the state of the NHS in the *Sunday Times* some 20 years ago a friend who is a doctor arranged a sort of private seminar of consultants from a London hospital in which I learned about gross shortcomings of the premises and services, including cockroaches in the wards, not just the kitchens. Yet this was in Harold Wilson's time when nobody had heard of Mrs Thatcher.

Moreover, the problem extends well beyond hospitals and those shabby doctors' surgeries behind uncleaned shop windows to be seen in some of the less prepossessing inner-city areas. Is there something special about us which also produces such mucky, as well as packed, commuter and tube trains (in which the only compensation for standing in extreme discomfort is not having to sit on the grubby seats), filthy, unswept pavements with their swirling dust, debris and paper, and the often dilapidated school buildings (many built in the Sixties and Seventies) which compare so unfavourably with the soldier structures that survive from earlier periods as the level of much teaching compares with that of earlier generations?

What all these things have in common is that they involve public services, and if their shortcomings were an inevitable consequence of their being public, then obviously they should cease to be. But neither Tories nor Labour suggest this.

The Government's failing is that while keeping certain services in the public sector, it fights rearguard actions (nurses' pay was an example) against ensuring that they are financed at the level of their worth to the

community on any rational basis of evaluation. This is to protect taxpayers, but there is also a doctrinal distaste for anything publicly managed. Where they can, Tories tend to contract out of public services for themselves, taking pride in doing so. Yet this is not an option for the vast majority of Tory voters.

Labour on the other hand, while paying lip-service to more spending on the public services, is far more anxious to spread the area of the public sector than to ensure adequate finance for what is really important. It has consistently shown itself to prefer a large and shabby public sector in which the user puts up with what he is given because he has no alternative than a smaller and brighter one. Nor will it dilute the pure water of taxpayers' finance with any kind of charges. Its instinct (particularly in local government) is to waste public money on patronage over as wide an area as possible.

The split-minded instinctive prejudices of the political parties exacerbate a national problem in which the public argument concentrates on the merits of public versus private instead of on the question of how best to finance and organize services which, by their nature and common consent, are publicly managed.

The theory of Thatcherism holds that private prosperity will spill over into the public sector, yielding more taxes and thus producing better services. But that does not quite seem to be working. The man or woman who does well out of the financial markets or new businesses may generate more prosperity through taxes to the nation. They may even (as Mrs Thatcher wishes) give some of their surplus to charity. But their large

disposable incomes and perks are less to benefit the public sector, even indirectly, than to pile up the nation's import bill.

Our refusal to think out our public services criteria is exemplified in British Rail's wish to raise long distance commuting fares by up to 100 per cent. Either the market should rule and British Rail should be privatized, even if many services have to be closed; or, if there are good reasons for keeping it public, it should be financed in the public interest. This should cover the effect of such fare increases on house prices in different regions, on jobs and on the cost to the public of extra traffic on the roads for which the taxpayer will ultimately pay in additional road costs.

If Labour stopped trying to weaken the country's defences, gave up undermining private enterprise and introduced a system by taxation and controls, and abandoned subsidizing the absurd in the cause of egalitarianism; if, instead, it tried a new, rational and open-minded approach (even perhaps including charges) to a small essential public sector, it would be in the public interest. This is more than Mr Kinnock is today.

Mrs Thatcher would then have to think about how to give the essential public services dignity. They should be run as much with patriotic pride as our defence or police forces; they too are part of our national persona. Who knows, a different atmosphere might then even work upon the lousy who make Underground seats and platforms filthy and regard pedestrian precincts as a receptacle for their rubbish? It is not always easy, surveying the present public scene, to be proud to be British.

ON THIS DAY

1954



When Clement Attlee, the former Labour Prime Minister, was received by Mao Tse-tung he also met Liu Shao-chi, generally regarded as the heir apparent to the Chinese leader. Liu was purged in the Cultural Revolution but some years after his death was rehabilitated.

**MR. ATTLEE RECEIVED BY MAO TSE-TUNG**  
Three-hour tea party

From Our Special Correspondent PEKING, AUG. 24

Mao Tse-tung, chairman of the Central People's Government, this afternoon received the Labour Party delegation led by Mr. Attlee in the Government reception hall near the north-east corner of the Forbidden City. Others present at this occasion, which lasted for three hours, were Mr. Liu Shao-chi and Mr. Li Chi-shen, both deputy chairmen of the Government; Mr. Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister; four deputy Prime Ministers, Mr. Chen Yun, Mr. Kuo Mo-jo, Mr. Huang Yen-pei, and Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping; and minority party leaders.

The parties met over tea served at a long table, on one side of which were the Chinese leaders and on the other side the Labour delegation. It is understood that Mao Tse-tung put forward the general Chinese viewpoint on the Far Eastern situation.

Mr. Liu Shao-chi is regarded as the Party leader closest to Mao, and Mr. Chen Yun is the Government's chief economic planner. This must have been the first occasion on which western political visitors have been received by Mao, whose public appearances are rare, though during the past few days he appeared at the concluding meet-

ings of the Peking representative conference which, among other tasks, elected him Mr. Li Shao-chi and Mr. Chou En-lai as delegates to the all-China people's congress which is to meet next month.

Mr. Humphrey Trevelyan, the British Chargé d'Affaires, tonight gave a dinner in honour of Mr. Attlee and the other members of the Labour delegation. Mr. Chou En-lai, the Foreign Minister, attended together with the vice-Foreign Minister, Mr. Chang Han Fu, and the secretary-general of the Government administration council, Mr. Hsi Chung Hsun. Other guests included senior officials of the Chinese Foreign Office and the Ambassadors of India, Pakistan and Burma. The dinner, which began at 8 p.m. and lasted until after 11, was served in an old house which 20 years ago was used as an ambassadorial residence... and was the home of a prince in the Manchurian dynasty.

The importance of the dinner lies not least in the fact that it was the first occasion since the present Government came to power in China that the Chinese Foreign Minister — or, indeed, the ministers and vice-ministers who accompanied him — had visited the British Embassy compound. It is not only Mr. Attlee and his fellow party members who have had the opportunity of meeting many Chinese leaders during the past 10 days, but also members of the staff of the British Chargé d'Affaires, whose contacts with such officials had been very small before the Geneva conference began.

There has been a lot of ice broken in Peking this month, and one must hope that Sino-British relations will improve on both the international plane and on the more modest but effective and continuous level of personal contacts here. The presence of the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires in London — to which an appointment is expected soon — will also be a necessary counterpart of recent changes here.





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## EXAM RESULTS

As the GCSE results arrive on the doormats of 700,000 fifth-formers tomorrow they will be greeted in about equal proportions of delight and despair. In the background, from the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Kenneth Baker, will come a sigh of relief.

The first year of the examination (the General Certificate of Secondary Education) which has replaced the old GCE O level and CSE has, after an uncertain start, generally satisfied most of its critics. The early feeling, which may be optimistic, is that standards have risen slightly. Certainly most pupils seem to like it.

Originally conceived as a simple replacement of the two old examinations, it has developed into a large and complicated system with some inevitable hitches. It is important that these are dealt with quickly before they are allowed to become endemic.

Mr Baker, who has already criticized some teachers for overworking their pupils particularly in course work, had asked the six boards who together make up the Joint Council for the GCSE to ensure that above all else the marking was fair. Yesterday the examiners said they had at least achieved that. Mr Baker's own inspectors, the HMI, are already reviewing how successful schools have been in preparing their classes for the GCSE: preliminary indications are that in most cases the schools have satisfied the inspectors.

The teachers' unions are still saying that the examination was introduced in an unseemly rush and complain — predictably — of inadequate resources, a cry that will continue unabated once the national curriculum takes hold in the schools. But what union leaders say does not always correspond with how their members operate in the workplace. Far from

complaining, most of the GCSE teachers have put in enormous efforts to see that even with the teething problems — many of which have been exaggerated — pupils in the first year have been given every possible help and encouragement to do well. The difficulty may be in succeeding years when teachers do not feel quite the same motivation.

In improving standards, syllabuses will need to be revised, in some cases scrapped, teaching methods improved in conjunction with more in-service training, and schools should be encouraged to make more use of the special advisers in training teachers. The boards themselves should look at their own administration. There is too much overlap in the number of courses and papers in the same subjects, many of them appealing to a very small number of candidates.

Mr Baker has told them they must improve their own standards of organization and quality control of their papers. They should particularly take note of his view that simply to say that there are some mistakes every year is not an appropriate response. It is an attitude that smacks of complacency. Public examinations can crucially determine a young person's future and their marking should be as free of error as it is possible to make them.

Industry too must adjust its attitude to the new examination. A government survey some 18 months ago described the response so far as uninformed and apathetic. Many employers seem no better informed now. As they have been urging schools and teachers to understand the working world, so must they understand the importance of this new examination that will determine the careers of the country's young people.

## FRESH START ON CYPRUS

New Cyprus talks in Nicosia next month will start by putting the clock back 11 years. It says much for the frustrations of more recent times, that this apparently backward step has been generally welcomed. The opposed leaders of the island's two communities have at last agreed to begin at the beginning.

At the instigation of the UN Secretary-General, Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar, they will take as their starting point the agreements of 1977 (between the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr Rauf Denktaş and Archbishop Makarios) and 1979 (between Mr Denktaş again and President Spyros Kyprianou). These defined their joint objective as a unified federal state — and thereby set the scene for UN-sponsored talks about how to achieve it.

In the event they were to be the last agreements reached between the two sides. Although a draft settlement was prepared by the UN, the New York meeting at which they were to consider it in January 1985 collapsed almost as soon as it began.

A revised document was prepared by the indefatigable Secretary-General later that year — and a third version in 1986. But either one side or the other has found each draft unacceptable, encouraging nothing but pessimism over a solution.

There is still little of substance to alter that gloom prognosis. But the climate at least is warmer and more encouraging these days.

For one thing, the mother countries, Greece and Turkey, have begun a slow and difficult rapprochement. So far they have managed to achieve this only by putting the Cyprus problem to one side. But progress is eased by this change of mood in Athens and Ankara.

Secondly, the Greek Cypriots have a new leader. Last February Mr Kyprianou was defeated in the presidential elections by the millionaire businessman, Mr George Vassiliou. Mr Vassiliou's official negotiating pos-

ition differs little from that of his predecessor. But he is generally acknowledged to be a more flexible, pragmatic man — with considerable charm and ability. At least he brings a fresh mind to the problems which in the last few years of political bickering, have looked insoluble.

There are two other considerations which are welcome. In the first place the two men have agreed to talk without any pre-conditions. In the second, a procedural formula has been found for dealing with the four "sticking points" which have caused the most problems for Greek Cypriots during the last three years.

These concern the withdrawal of 29,000 Turkish troops, left over from the 1974 invasion; the removal of those settlers who have come from the Turkish mainland; the question of guarantees for the island's future independence; and the "three freedoms" — to move, settle and buy property anywhere on the island. It was the failure of the original draft to deal with these (most of all with the question of troop withdrawals) which led to the breakdown of the last high-level meeting in January 1985.

Whether they can reach a full agreement by the deadline in nine months time is very questionable. But they have by no means disagreed on everything in the past — and their views on the constitution and territorial divisions are by no means unbridgeable. There are grounds for hoping that they might at last agree on the broad principles.

If so, it will be another feather in the cap of Senior Perez de Cuellar, who has worked hard on this issue since before he was appointed Secretary-General. If not, it is hard to see how a solution to the Cyprus problem — with its permanent risk of violence both between individual Cypriots and two Nato allies — can be reached. There should be great pressure on those concerned to succeed this time.

## ANCIENT EXAMPLES

The dissident Czech philosopher, Dr Julius Tomin, is an articulate champion of classical Greek studies in general and its philosophy in particular. It is hard to quarrel with his comments at the World Congress of Philosophy this week that both these subjects are in declining health. It is hard, however, to come full-square behind his view that supplementary benefit of £67.32 a week should be paid to him on the grounds that he should do no work other than his chosen study.

A simpler philosophy has to apply here. His case will have to be determined according to the rules. Those rules have to be interpreted for individual cases. But precedents should not be established which encourage social security applicants to define the area of their skill so narrowly as to make it wholly impractical for them to take an available job. For a bricklayer to say that he only works on one kind of building — and on not another for which a job happens to be available — is unduly restrictive. A philosopher, who can teach or write in many parts of the country, is no different in that respect.

In Dr Tomin's case there is no evidence to suggest that his benefit has been put at risk for refusing obviously unsuitable jobs. Indeed, it would be good to be reassured that he has not, as has been suggested, refused academic offers

outside Oxford. That university may, indeed, be pre-eminent in his branch of the subject but free choice of work-place and exclusive concentration on the Greeks is a luxury few academic philosophers in Britain now enjoy.

A decision on the case has been postponed. It will essentially turn on whether he is or is not available for work under the appropriate section of the Social Security Act and whether he has placed undue restrictions on the work he is willing to accept. He has said that if the decision goes against him he will sweep the streets of Oxford or seek some other menial task to keep his head clear for his real work.

This seems somewhat silly. It has always been open to philosophers to shun the material world. Dr Tomin's field of study is full of them — from Diogenes the barrel-dweller to the great Heraclitus, who is said to have lived off grass and died on a dung heap. If he wishes to follow their lead, so be it.

But many great philosophers have mixed their craft with other callings. Hobbes taught widely. Locke was involved with politics. Russell was mathematician, campaigner and polymath. It is to be hoped that the friends who encouraged Dr Tomin to Britain may prevail upon him to bend his ways and, when he has bent them, find him a home from which he can continue to lay bare the wisdom of old.

### Rail fare rises

From Mr C. R. Showell

Sir, The massive price rises which British Rail claims are necessary for long-distance commuters can only be justified by the use of inappropriate costing calculations. The assumption that long-distance commuters should pay the same rate per mile as those travelling shorter distances leads BR to apportion the costs of overheads, such as stations, staff, termini, etc. on a "rate per mile" basis.

In fact, both long and short-distance travellers make identical use of the majority of these elements of cost, and logic therefore suggests that this portion of the charge for the journey should

be on a per caput rather than a per mile basis.

Once it is accepted that the actual running of the train from A to B is only a part of the total cost of running British Rail which must be covered by ticket costs, the case for a uniform charge per mile — and hence for a doubling of some existing long-distance fares — falls apart.

Yours faithfully,  
C. R. SHOWELL,  
Fern Hill, Shepherds Lane,  
Compton,  
Wiltshire, Hampshire.  
August 17.

### Pronounced difficulty

From Mr Trevor Mound

Sir, Mr Morland's letter (August 12) on conversations with Japa-

nese recalled a freezing February morning a year or two back at Paddington when two Japanese gentlemen could not make clear to the booking clerk their destination.

I speak no Japanese, but I speak and write some Chinese and know that the two languages have many written characters in common. I therefore hastily wrote out some characters asking where the two men wished to go and when they intended to return. After a nod or two of the head, I was able to ask the clerk to provide them with two day-return tickets to Bath.

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR MOUND,  
8 Beaufort East,  
Bath, Avon.  
August 13.

## Pipeline hazards in Snowdonia

From Dr Kenneth Addison

Sir, The Central Electricity Generating Board has clearly got itself into a cleft stick over replacement of the Cwm Dyli hydroelectric station pipeline on the east face of Snowdon, and your correspondents of August 16 admirably laid out the environmental objections to its construction above ground on supporting pillars. Since the CEGB, however, is apparently influenced more by matters of cost, it should consider two further technical factors favouring burial of the pipe.

My research over a number of years on glaciological and geotechnical problems in Snowdonia concludes that debris flow hazard to buildings and structures in the region was previously underestimated. On September 2-3, 1983, at least six debris flows were triggered on steep mountain slopes within 10km of Snowdon during rainfall of intensities experienced as often as once in five years.

Two blocked the A5 trunk road 9km north of Cwm Dyli but, more important, a third, which commenced alongside the steepest section of the exposed existing pipeline, ran out just a few metres from a potentially catastrophic rupture. The scar and debris are still there.

A buried pipeline could be protected from similar events and yet the CEGB appears to have neglected this hazard, in contrast to the Welsh Office, who have already commissioned two site investigations at the A5 locations.

Second, engineers contracted to reorganise networks ancillary to the CEGB's own giant Dinorwic hydroelectric station successfully buried considerable lengths of pipeline in the neighbouring mountains. Most notably, a 12km buried pipeline from Cwm Llugwy to Bethesda via the spectacular valley of Nant Ffroncon negotiated terrain more diverse and technically as difficult as required for just 2km in Cwm Dyli. The CEGB appears to have ignored this substantial expertise.

The CEGB owes it to the jobs it seeks to protect and its own buildings and structures, as well as the irrefutable environmental impact, to make a full appraisal of all technical issues. Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH ADDISON  
(School of Applied Sciences, The Polytechnic, Wolverhampton),  
St Peter's College,  
Oxford.  
August 22.

### Carnival prologue

From Mr Illyd Harrington

Sir, Alan Franks's timely account (Spectrum, August 19) of public and private preparation for carnival was a thoughtful and well-informed piece.

What concerns me is that even before this event a great deal of aggressive body language is being used, making a middle way seem impossible — a dangerous proposition in a capital city which is still law-abiding.

A carnival is not a rehearsal for an "inevitable" urban civil war. Neither should it be an occasion for intolerable and vicious street crime. Lord Justice Salmon's ruling (Notting Dale judgement of three decades ago) made the streets of West London safe for a long period. Then he sentenced several white youths to a long period of imprisonment after they had seriously assaulted an innocent black man on his way home from work. There is, after all, a deterrent element in sentencing.

The Home Secretary recently advocated a swifter appearance before the magistrates for youthful hoodlums. There is a case for it over the coming weekend with, of course, adequate provision for legal advice for any accused person. Extraordinary events often demand speedy reaction.

Confrontation and containment are harsh propositions to be even mentioned in the context of an event based upon, ironically enough, the concept of community, voluntary effort and public enjoyment.

Yours faithfully,  
ILLYD HARRINGTON,  
16 Lea House,  
Salisbury Street, NW8.  
August 22.

### Motorway dangers

From Miss Kathleen Rowland

Sir, Your correspondent (August 20) is right: the Department of Transport must act to increase safety on motorways.

What I saw recently in a town in south-east China might well be used here. Victims of road accidents had been photographed where they lay in the road before removal by ambulance, and subsequently a huge poster was set up on the crossing where the accident happened. Alongside the photographs was a brief report of what had caused the accident.

In the same town there was a startling example of preventive medicine that certainly arrested the attention. A 20ft poster showed only an enormous, brilliant red heart pierced by a smouldering cigarette and the caption was simply: "Smoking kills".

Do we, perhaps, now need similar hard-hitting shock tactics to stop what is often, through culpable carelessness, in effect murder?

Yours faithfully,  
KATHLEEN ROWLAND,  
Flat 23, Thornbury Court,  
36-38 Chepstow Villas, W11.  
August 20.

## Military appraisals of Ulster strife

From Colonel P. C. R. Howes

Sir, In the aftermath of the disaster at Ballygawley (report, later editions, August 20) I write as a retired senior officer with considerable operational experience in command of troops in Northern Ireland and elsewhere to beg the politicians to see the situation there for what it is. I am of the age and generation which commanded at unit level in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s and some of my contemporaries are now in senior command appointments.

As then, so now. We have in Northern Ireland a war on our hands.

The political policy and its military execution therefore owed it to those fine young soldiers to give them better security arrangements than a quasi-civilian tourist coach travelling unescorted on a predictable route at a predictable time, easily identifiable as a fat, soft target by easily-maintained enemy surveillance of Aldergrove and equally easily-gathered intelligence. The underlying reason why proper security was not provided is the political self-deception that there is no more a war in Northern Ireland than there is in North London.

The latest major manifestation of this political euphoria is the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which has done much both to alienate the supporters of law and order in the province and to give aid and comfort to the Queen's enemies.

It is useless to bring our young soldiers to the peak of fitness, marksmanship, and the myriad skills which make our thinking fighting men second to none if, whenever they are off patrol, they are allowed to behave as though Northern Ireland were a peaceful home-garrison environment. But that is what political insistence over 20 years that Northern Ireland is basically a land at peace has demanded. Political wishful thinking has cost the lives of far too many soldiers already. Ballygawley is no more than the most recent example of this disastrous policy.

It will be by no means the last unless the political direction of the Army at last comes to face facts.

Specifically, although the key military advantage of surprise has been lost, internment should be reintroduced, suspects should be interrogated in depth and tried by military court, the death penalty should be available as a sanction, and the Republic of Ireland should be treated in all respects as a foreign country providing a safe haven for the enemy. Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP HOWES,  
Eccleston Square, SW1.  
August 24.

From Mr Richard A. Allen

Sir, As a fairly recently retired WO1 with five tours of Northern Ireland to my credit, I follow the continuing problems there with interest and sometimes disgust.

### The worst of times

From Mr Alan Roberts

Sir, I would like to comment on Mr Stephen Wood's sad letter (August 20). We have among our members a single pensioner who is in a similar position.

In these days of encouraging people to buy their own house, she used what savings she had to buy a small cottage. After consultations with a building society and the DHSS office she went ahead with the purchase on the clear understanding that the interest on her mortgage would be met by the DHSS. When interest rates rose her benefit from the DHSS was adjusted.

Not any more! She has a benefit which is "transitionally protected": in other words, she receives the benefit that was paid to her before the fateful day of April 11 when the new benefits came into operation.

We have criticised this device for some considerable time. The Government hides behind it to

claim that those who receive it are no worse off in cash terms. Technically correct, of course. But as Mr Wood has so eloquently demonstrated, those who receive such "protection" are not protected from the ravages of inflation.

What Mr Wood may not realise is that his cash benefit will remain at its current level until such time as inflation erodes the difference between his current benefit and the relevant income support uprated for inflation over time. In real terms he and, we suspect, many others like him will find themselves steadily worse off.

We believe this to be most unjust, particularly when so many of those in work are enjoying rapidly improving standards of living.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN ROBERTS (Treasurer,  
Colwyn Bay Branch,  
Pensioners' Voice),  
17 Gregory Avenue,  
Colwyn Bay, Clwyd.  
August 21.

From Ms J. H. McLaughlin  
Sir, Having three sons in different infantry regiments, there is usually one, and sometimes two, in Northern Ireland. I am, therefore, more than a little interested in the situation.

With this new and appalling carnage will the authorities now stop transporting small numbers of soldiers along roads which are extremely vulnerable? Would it not be more sensible for them to be helicoptered to and from Aldergrove airport? It can't be more expensive (if that is why it isn't done) than the loss of X number of soldiers.

Yours faithfully,  
J. H. McLAUGHLIN,  
Oxfordshire.

Most Army bases in the province employ local civilian labour, all of whom, except the "moles", are under personal threat of their lives. Once again the answer must lie with the local populace. They must know whose loyalty lies where and who is working at a base for the wrong reasons. Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD A. ALLEN,  
Camberley, Surrey.

From Mr Philip Browning  
Sir, Most of those involved in magistrates' courts would applaud Mr Blair-Gould's proposals (August 18) to restrict the right of trial by jury to those serious cases which merit it.

I am puzzled, however, by the distinction between theft which "casts such a unique stigma that this always merits trial by jury" and "simple dishonesty" causing loss of less than, say, £500, which would only be triable in the lower court. The supposed stigma surely arises from the dishonesty which is an integral part of theft, leaving me to wonder what Mr Blair-Gould means by "simple dishonesty". Surely most shoplifting cases are simple? Yours faithfully,  
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From Mr Graham Keating  
Sir, Mr Nottage (August 19) records my assurance in noting a young football supporter's dash from, and return to, an Underground train in order to deposit an empty drink can in a station litter bin.

I fear this action may not have been some altruistic move in the long-standing campaign to "Keep Britain tidy" but rather a self-imposed dare, e.g., "Can I get off the train, dispose of can and get back on train before the doors close?"

I am prompted to this train of thought by memories of the game, which was to alight from the school bus at one stop and make a run to the next stop in order to re-board. Whether one was successful depended on the amount and speed of the other traffic. Yours faithfully,  
G. J. KEATING,  
49 Gorsebank Road,  
Hale Barns,  
Cheshire.  
August 22.

It is this "silent" minority with a distinguished history of comparatively liberal views and actions who are seldom considered in the Western media. They together with the blacks would be the most economically ruined by effective sanctions.

Would it not be more sensible to support our kith and kin by means of greater investment in the country so that they can more effectively use their influence to reduce the constraints of apartheid? Abandoning these people as proposed by the Governments of Australia and Canada will only drive them into the arms of the extreme right since they will have nowhere else to go.

Suggestions of cutting air links are particularly hurtful since it is this group with its business and family links who would be most harmed. Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN MCGEE,  
Blackbrook House,  
Stockport, Cheshire.  
August 23.

From Miss Sophie C. Asscher  
Sir, Is not the answer to the antifreeze shortage (report, August 20) Austrian wine? SOPHIE C. ASSCHER,  
29 Pear Tree Lane,  
Wapping, E1.  
August 20.

## Recollections of early Ashton

From Mr Vivian Ellis

Sir, Readers of *The Times* might be interested to know that, in addition to ballets that will always remain in the repertoire (Obituary, August 20), Freddie Ashton (as he was then known to me), like Balanchine, staged ballets for revues, probably to supplement an income from more artistic but less lucrative sources.

In 1934, at the Saville Theatre, he partnered Frances Day in a song from *Jill Darling* — one of my musicals — entitled *Dancing with a Ghost*. In 1936 he devised, again to my music, a delightful hat shop ballet for June in André Charlot's revue at the Vaudeville Theatre. *The Town Talks*; and finally, in *Running Riot* at the Gaiety Theatre in 1938, a Chinese ballet which, for the life of me, I cannot recall.

Years later, when I met Freddie at a matinee at the Haymarket Theatre, I found him totally unspoiled by his own success, a tribute to the man as well as his work. Yours sincerely,  
VIVIAN ELLIS,  
Holnicote,  
Nr Minehead, Somerset.  
August 20.

From Major Paul J. C. Payne  
Sir, Before Frederick Ashton began his studies with Massine, Cyril (Binkie) Beaumont gave him his first parts at the age of 21 as a sword-waving dervish in his burlesque ballet called *Circus*, and as a Cruel Old Man and a Young Man in his fantastic ballet called *The Christmas Tree*, both performed by the Cremorne company at the New Scala Theatre, March 11, 1926.

The scenery and costumes were designed by Wyndham Payne, some of whose designs are on the desk beside me. Yours truly,  
PAUL J. C. PAYNE,  
Whitehall, Old Cleve,  
Minehead, Somerset.  
August 20.

From Mr Adrian Room  
Sir, Sir Frederick Ashton is described (Obituary, August 20) as having attended a "minor public school", its name not even given. Isn't it time this belittling expression was decently buried? Presumably it arose in the first half of the present century to refer to those nineteenth-century foundations that were regarded as inferior by comparison with the "great schools" such as Harrow, Rugby and Canterbury.

Sir Frederick actually attended Dover College, founded in 1871, granted a Royal Charter in 1923 and today well established as a flourishing public school of some 370 pupils. It can now hardly be regarded as "minor", all the more for having numbered Sir Frederick among its former students. Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN ROOM,  
173 The Causeway,  
Petersfield, Hampshire.  
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## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
August 24: The Prince of Wales, President of the National Youth Music Theatre, attended a performance of the "Drake" musical at the George Square Theatre, Edinburgh, this afternoon.

His Royal Highness was received by the Artistic Director of the National Youth Music Theatre (Mr Jeremy James Taylor).

The Prince Edward, Patron of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, this evening attended the opening performance of *Murder in the Cathedral* in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh (Minister, the Reverend Gillespie Macmillan).

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor

McLaughlin, the Right Hon the Lord Provost) and the Artistic Director of the National Youth Theatre (Mr Edward Wilson).

Captain William McLean was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Patron of the William and Mary Tercentenary Trust, will visit The Netherlands from October 26 to 27.

The Duke and Duchess of York will be undertaking official engagements in Australia from September 28 to October 7.

The Princess Royal will attend The Games of the XXIV Olympiad in Seoul, from September 18 to October 2.

A memorial meeting for Mr Denis Thompson is to be held in the Howard Building, Downing College, Cambridge, by permission of the Master and Fellows, at 2 pm on Sunday, September 25.

### Marriages

**Mr J. Reith and Mrs D. Rawlence**  
The marriage took place in Newport, Isle of Wight, on August 20, between Mr Jock Reith and Mrs Dorothy Rawlence.

**Mr L.C.J. Spencer and Miss R. Williams**  
The marriage took place recently of Mr Ian Spencer, elder son of Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs L.J. Spencer, of Wilton, Wiltshire, and Miss Rebecca Williams, daughter of Mrs A.E. Williams, of Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, and Mr V.R. Williams, of Worcester.

### Birthdays today

Mr Martin Amis, author, 39; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Armistead, 58; Mr Leonard Bernstein, composer, 70; Mr Sean Connery, actor, 58; Mr Frederick Forsyth, author, 50; Mr Andrew Gardner, broadcaster, 56; Sir Donald Logan, diplomat, 71; Lord McGroarty, of Dunfermline, 67; Mr Brian Moore, novelist, 67; Mrs M.S. Trenaman, former principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 69; Professor Anne Warner, physiologist, 48.

### Princes hurt

Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark and his younger brother, Prince Joachim, suffered minor injuries in a car accident near Cahors, France, on Tuesday, police said yesterday. They were with two Danish friends when the car hit a tree and somersaulted several times. The four were treated in hospital. Prince Frederik, aged 20, has a fractured shoulder and Prince Joachim, aged 19, and the others suffered only minor bruises.

The princes were visiting their parents who are staying at the castle of Cahors, the ancestral home of their French-born father, Count Henri de Monpezat.

### Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, Patron of the Cambridge Youth Theatre, will attend a performance of *The Heart of a Dog* at the Southside International Community Centre, Nicholson Street, Edinburgh at 2.45 and, as President of the National Youth Music Theatre, will attend a performance of *The Little Rascals* at the George Square Theatre, Edinburgh, at 7.15.

## Meteorite fire 'led to demise of dinosaurs'

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Scientists have found dramatic new evidence for a global fire which engulfed the Earth 65 million years ago, probably as a result of the impact of a gigantic meteorite.

The discovery adds further weight to the theory that a world-wide disaster was responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Dr Edward Anders, of the University of Chicago, and colleagues in the United States, Switzerland and New Zealand report in the latest issue of the journal *Nature* that they have unearthed from five sites in Europe and New Zealand contain as much as 10,000 times higher levels of the element carbon than expected.

Much of this is in the form of soot, of the sort generated in fires, and chemical analysis has revealed that it was almost certainly generated in one apocalyptic event.

The scientists are particularly excited by the fact that at one of the sites in New Zealand the soot layer coincides with a layer relatively rich in the element iridium.

This is much more common in material from meteorite impacts than in the Earth's crust, and has led the team to tie the fire to the impact of a meteorite when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

A careful examination of the evidence locked into the fossil

record which has now been unearthed by the team enables a picture to be put together of what may have happened in the final few moments of the age of the dinosaurs.

As the meteorite hurtled to Earth, the atmosphere would have been rapidly heated, with strong winds whipping up to affect trees at ground level. Just before the impact, the winds would have reached hurricane force, and whole forests would be razed.

The intense heat of the meteorite's glowing tail would trigger major fires to spring up, whose spread only the oceans could stop. "If the impact was over North America, then the fires might spread over Eurasia and perhaps Africa", say the researchers.

Then there would be a colossal explosion as the meteorite struck the earth, producing a crater as much as 300 kilometres across.

Poisonous gases, such as carbon monoxide, and vast quantities of soot would be thrown into the atmosphere. Those creatures lucky enough to survive the fires and fumes would then have themselves plunged into a false winter, as the soot blotted out the light of the sun.

Starved of food, warmth and light, many living creatures, including the dinosaurs, would soon succumb.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr M.D. Anderson and Miss J.M. Roberts**  
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.D. Anderson, of Ealing, London, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.B. Roberts, of Newmarket, Suffolk.

**Dr P.J.J. Bates and Miss K.P. de Wolf**  
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Bates, of Tunbridge Wells, and Karen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey de Wolf, of Tonbridge, Kent.

**Mr J.J. Carter and Miss C. Colet**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan James, younger son of Wing Commander J.V. Carter (ret), and Mrs Carter, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Corinne, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Colet, of Mons, Belgium.

**Mr N.J. Cave and Miss E.C. Jolly**  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, son of Mr and Mrs B. Cave, of Berkhamsted, and Emma Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.A. Jolly, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

**Mr M.D. Chalk and Miss A.J. Archer**  
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. Chalk, of Torquay, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs V. Archer, of Woodthorpe, Nottingham.

**Mr P.M.W. de Gentile-Williams and Miss J.A. Unsworth**  
The engagement is announced between Patrick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David de Gentile-Williams, of Chiswick, London, and Jacqueline, daughter of the late Mr Margaret Unsworth, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

**Mr H.J. de Santis and Miss G.K. Street**  
The engagement is announced between James, second son of Canon John and Mrs de Santis, of Canterbury, and Geraldine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R.H.G. Street, of Chalfont St Peter.

**Mr D.W. Fedrick and Miss P.S. Cooke**  
The engagement is announced between David, only son of the late Mr Norman Fedrick and of Mrs Lucy Fedrick, of Chislehurst, Kent, and Penelope, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Cooke, of Cambridge.

**Mr D. Funn and Miss C.M. Humphreys**  
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs John Funn, of Neston, Wirral, and Carolyn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Humphreys, of Timberscombe, Somerset.

**Mr E.H. Greaves and Dr C.E. Duncumb**  
The engagement is announced between Henry, younger son of the late Mr W.K. Greaves and of Mrs E.M. Greaves, of Winstone, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and Christine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs K.W. Duncumb, of Bagendon, Gloucestershire.

**Mr N.C. Howard and Miss T.M. Willy**  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Howard, of Winchester, and Tessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Willy, of Wimbledon.

**Mr J.L. Humerick and Dr R.M. Wharf**  
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, elder son of Mr and Mrs S.M. Humerick, of Clearwater, Florida, and Rosalind, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Wharf, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

## The Cote d'Azur basks in its centenary celebrations

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The Côte d'Azur is one hundred years old. Amid the fireworks, cultural events and any excuse for a sumptuous party this month, the centenary provides a chance for critics to analyse the emergence of the South of France as the chic holiday resort of Europe and to ask whether it still merits its reputation.

According to *L'Express*, the Côte d'Azur was the name originally attributed to the coastline between Cannes and Menton where at the turn of the century "the rich and infamous, convalescents and foreigners — particularly English" came in winter to benefit from the gentle climate and the beautiful scenery.

The change from winter to summer resort came between the two world wars when its exclusive clientele of European aristocracy and upper classes, according to the encyclopedia, was widened to include ordinary but moneyed holidaymakers. They became a permanent feature after the Second World War "when it became customary for employers to accord paid holidays".

The numbers arriving on the Côte d'Azur every year continue to grow, but the big spenders grow fewer. An article in *L'Express* magazine judges that the inevitable style of Saint-Tropez probably ended at the beginning of the 1970s when the canyons came.

"Thirty years ago Saint-Tropez was considered crowded out when there were 2,000 people in town", remarked an old fisherman, "today there can be as many as 100,000."

Many of the people walking around in an effort to see and be seen end up recognizing only the couple from the next tent, although some of the aloof of the 1960s who made Saint-Tropez famous are still around with nearly natural sun-bleached hair and held-in muscles.

Brigitte Bardot — the most famous of them all — has long flown the coop, preferring to live quietly with her animals than publicly with

humans. The outrageousness of those years has disappeared.

Probably the youngest of the tanned "celebrities" that have filled the summer pages of glossy magazines, such as *Paris Match*, is the 22-year-old Canadian model who is the ageing pop star, Johnny Halliday, swears is going to be his next wife.

The big yachts still come in to berth, but the once leisurely calm has given way to the efforts this year of the Maritime Police to control dangerous driving by speed boats and launches in the overcrowded sea.

Frequent patrols and warnings to speeding boats have failed to prevent several horrific accidents this summer. This month, a launch travelling at top speed sliced through a giant inflatable rubber tube — commonly known as a banana — carrying six young people who were being towed on a joy ride by a speedboat. One young man was killed outright and the others injured, one seriously. Police are searching for the launch which carried on without stopping.

The crowds on the Côte have driven those who want to be alone up the hills behind. There the beautifully-smelling pine forests are now filled with luxurious bungalows, each equipped with their own pool. To rent one of these for the month of August can cost 300,000 francs (£30,000).

To those who lament that the Côte d'Azur is not what it used to be, *L'Express* points out that it has been declared finished at every stage of its development since Guy de Maupassant sailed by in his yacht in 1887 and wrote of its beauty. Its fame was later launched by the painter, Paul Signac, who brought his friends Matisse, Dufy, Roussel and others to the small unspoiled fishing ports because of the beautiful light.

Each era has created its own fashion and *L'Express* is optimistic that a new sense of direction will emerge to take it through to its bicentenary.



Dame Judi Dench, making her London debut as a director, gives Kenneth Branagh some final instructions before the Renaissance Theatre Company's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* opens at the Phoenix Theatre tonight.

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Allan Pinkerton, founder of the American detective agency, Glasgow, 1819; Bret Harle, writer, Albany, New York, 1836.

**DEATHS:** Sir Henry Morgan, buccaner, Jamaica?, 1688; David Hume, philosopher, Edinburgh, 1776; James Watt, Birmingham, 1819; Sir William Herschel, astronomer, Slough, Buckinghamshire, 1822; Michel Faraday, physicist, near Hampton Court, Surrey, 1867; Friedrich Nietzsche, philosopher, Weimar, 1900; Henri Fantin-Latour, painter, Paris, 1904; Gregor Zinoviev, revolutionary, executed, Moscow, 1936; George, Duke of Kent, killed in an air crash, near Dunbeath, Highland, 1942.

Formation of the National Government, led by Ramsay MacDonald, 1931.

## US museum backs down over head

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu has announced that one of its most prized possessions, a marble head of Achilles, is not a Greek original of the fourth century BC as the museum had thought.

When the richest museum in the world bought it, the huge head was attributed to Skopas, an important Greek sculptor and architect. It was dated 350-340 BC, and was thought to have been part of a pediment depicting a scene from the Trojan War at the ancient site of Tegea, where Skopas built a temple to Athena Alea.

A recent Getty handbook called the head "one of the few original Greek sculptures in Western European or American collections that can be placed within the context of a specific monument".

But, according to the museum press officer, Miss Lori Stan, the museum now says that the head is not a fourth-century Greek original. No further details would be announced until the museum

had worked out a settlement with the anonymous dealer who, in 1979, sold the piece to the museum.

Last September, the head, which has been under close study for several years, was removed from view.

A marble stele identified as an archaic Attic grave relief has also been removed from the galleries for similar study. Its authenticity is questioned.

The announcement about the marble head comes close on the heels of a report that the Getty's fifth-century statue of Aphrodite, unveiled three weeks ago, might have been smuggled out of Morgantina, Sicily, in the mid-1970s.

The authenticity of the Aphrodite is not questioned, but Italian officials, though agreeing that the statue was not stolen from the Morgantina archaeological site, insist that the issue remains to be settled.

Museum officials say that if it is proved that the statue was smuggled, they will return the Aphrodite to the Italian Government.

### Latest wills

Dr Mary Woodall, of Burcot, Oxfordshire, an authority on Gainsborough and director of the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, left estate valued at £194,233 net.

Professor Thomas Walter Freeman, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, professor of geography, Manchester University, left estate valued at £59,287 net.

Mr Robert John Unstead, of Thorpe, Suffolk, author, left estate valued at £127,623 net.

Mrs Kathleen Beatrice Shuffell, of Sutton, Surrey, left estate valued at £150,134 net. She left £2,000 each to the PSDA and Battersea Dogs Home, £2,000 each to the Greenpeace Environmental Trust, and the Lockwood Home of Rest for Donkeys, Wormley, Godalming, and the residue to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mrs Eileen Auckland Houghton, of Dorchester, Dorset, £554,039.

Mrs Monica Margaret Keith, of Edinburgh, £310,083.

Mr Alexander Robert Kennedy, of Beckenham, Kent, £446,943.

Mrs Marjorie Lathbury, of Mayfield, East Sussex, £584,573.

Mr Michael Larrie, of Arlington Street, London SW1, £869,810.

Miss Louise Kathleen Marchant, of Bedford, £440,200.

Mrs Sophie Marchant, of Marylebone, London, £302,605.

Mr Percival George Edwin Michaels, of West Hovey, Surrey, £518,712.

Mr Robert Charles Newton, of Old Cleeve, Mincester, Somerset, £291,958.

Mrs Doris Grace Smith, of Leigh on Sea, Essex, £510,718.

Mrs Iris Annie Miller Stoddell, of Bath, Avon, £503,628.

Mr John Robert Tamplin, of Odstock, Salisbury, Wiltshire, £766,373.

Katharine Ellen Wing, of Sneyd Park, Avon, £531,538.

Mrs Catherine Wing, of West Calverley, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, £320,826.

Mrs Florence Sylvia Hardwick, of Treberhewk, Wadebridge, Cornwall, £357,228.

Mrs Eve Norah Maud James, of Lewes, East Sussex, £516,175.

Mrs Natalie Spence, of Halse, Northamptonshire, £443,008.

## OBITUARY

### BRIG COLIN MAXWELL

Service to the Sultanate of Oman

Brigadier Colin Maxwell, who died on August 17 at the age of 73, devoted 36 years of his life to the Sultanate of Oman.

During those years he was Deputy Commander of The Sultan's Armed Forces from 1958 to 1978.

It was in 1952 that Maxwell, an accomplished Arabic speaker and lover of desert and mountain, was accepted into the service of the then Ruler of Muscat and Oman.

At that time, the Sultan was seeking to evict Saudi invaders from his lands at Buraimi and Maxwell's first task was to raise the Batinah Force, later renamed The Northern Frontier Regiment, in command of which he was to play a notable role in the more testing Jebel Akhdar campaign of 1957-59.

The year 1959 saw a reorganization of The Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) including the recruitment of more British on contract and, to fill the higher command and staff posts, of serving British regular officers on secondment.

As Deputy Commander — in effect the Adjutant-General — of SAF Maxwell had over two decades an immensely beneficial influence on the cohesion, loyalty and morale of the Armed Forces.

These were particularly tested when the serious and well-armed Marxist-led insurrection in the Southern Province of Dhofar was ag-



gravated in 1970 by an outbreak of rebellion and subversion in the heartland of the sultanate.

By his knowledge of the country and its inhabitants and his fatherly care for individual servicemen, Maxwell became a most respected friend and counsellor to all.

On his retirement from active service in 1978, Maxwell became a special adviser to the Omani, a post he held till falling ill last year.

Born in November 1914, Maxwell never saw his father, a captain in the 8th Gurkha Rifles, who was killed in action shortly after his birth. After education at Edgeborough School, at Radley and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Maxwell

served for three years in the Palestine Police but returned to England on the outbreak of the Second World War.

He was commissioned into The Royal Scots Fusiliers and served throughout the North-West Europe campaign in the 6th battalion of that regiment and was mentioned in despatches.

On demobilisation Maxwell went to Somalia and Eritrea as a member of the organisation responsible for administering those former enemy territories, serving till 1952.

Well-prepared by his experiences in Palestine and Somalia, Maxwell then took up a Foreign Office position to go and serve in the then Muscat and Oman.

*Major-General John Graham writes:*

Like his forefathers, Colin Maxwell truly loved soldiering and that love embraced with total sincerity the country of Oman and the varied peoples who live in that majestic land. All who knew him recognised this love and returned it to a heart-warming degree.

Britain can be proud that this one of her sons, with his gentle character, innate modesty and wisdom brought so much good to Oman, where he will surely be long remembered with honour by that generous and discerning nation.

### MR ROGER CLARKE

Mr Roger Clarke, who died on August 22 at the age of 85, was chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Company from 1959 to 1964 during a period of great change in the tobacco trade when it was facing keen competition, government action and health reports on the dangers of smoking.

Clarke's quiet but confident leadership covered an era marked not only by industry changes but also differences in smoking tastes and habits.

From the heyday of popular brands of cigarette such as Player's Medium and Wills Woodbine, he witnessed the rapid growth of the filter cigarette after the launch of Embassy Filter in 1962.

Roger Simon Woodchurch Clarke came from a family

with a long and historic association with the tobacco trade. He was a fourth generation member of William Clarke and Son Ltd of Liverpool, which had been founded in 1830 and was one of the original 13 businesses which joined Imperial Tobacco on its formation in 1901.

Clarke joined W.D. and H.O. Wills, the Bristol tobacco manufacturers, in 1922 and became a departmental and, later, an assistant factory manager. He transferred to the sales side of the business in 1930.

He was appointed a director of the Wills committee of management, in charge of sales and administration, in 1944 and joined the board of

Imperial Tobacco in the same year.

Clarke became Deputy Chairman of Imperial Tobacco in 1958 and succeeded to the chairmanship the following year when Lord Sinclair relinquished the post to become president of the company.

He retired in 1964 as chairman, although he remained a director for a further four years, when tribute was paid to the distinction and dignity with which he had steered the company through changing times.

Clarke was a magistrate in Bristol and from 1975 to 1983 he was Pro-Chancellor of Bristol University.

His wife Nancy died in 1980. There were no children.

### PROF CHRISTOPHER SCAIFE

Professor Christopher Henry Oldham Scaife died on August 17, aged 87, after a life spent mainly in the Middle East. He was both poet and university teacher.

At the outset of the Second World War Scaife was asked to help Freya Stark in creating an organization to assist the Allied cause, aiming principally through publicity to combat German penetration in the Middle East, known as "Brothers of Freedom".

Later he became Adviser on Arab Aspects to the Ministry of Information, Middle East. After the war he was an adviser to the Iraqi Ministry of Education and in 1947 was

appointed by the British Council visiting Professor of English to the American University of Beirut, transferring later to the permanent staff. He retired in 1966 as professor and chairman of the English department.

In 1934 Scaife published his first book of poems, *Towards Corinth, O Englishman*. This was followed in 1937 by *A Letter Day Athenian*. Other volumes followed at regular intervals until, in 1976, *Tones and Overtones, Selected Poems 1936-1976*, was published with an introduction by Nevill Coghill. This was followed by sets of poems for the speaking voice.

While at Oxford he was

president of the Union and in 1923 won the Newdigate Prize for English Verse.

It was a debating tour abroad which first kindled Scaife's interest in Arabic culture. He began however a career on the London stage with the Amner Hall Company, but in 1927 he threw this up to join *The Egyptian Gazette* in Alexandria, despite attempts by Tyrone Guthrie to dissuade him. He later joined the staff of Cairo University.

Scaife was loved by all who knew him. Young and old fell under his spell and continued to visit him after his retirement to a farm near Arezzo in Tuscany.

### DR ERNST SIMON

Education in 1939, later becoming its director.

Simon became a Zionist in 1918 and co-edited *Der Jude* with the philosopher and scholar, Martin Buber, who had a profound influence on his concept of Jewish nationalism and whom he joined in his determined struggle for Arab-Jewish understanding.

Simon held strongly to the view that Jews must give the Arabs equal economic rights and accept Arab nationalism as valid, as well as acknowledge the reality of the Arab fear of Jews.

Following the rise of Nazism in Germany, Simon agreed, at the urging of Buber, to go as an emissary and help German Jews to emigrate.

After joining the Hebrew

University staff in 1935 and becoming professor of philosophy and history of education, he participated in Jewish education programmes in various parts of the world.

With his broad humanistic outlook and his positive attitude to Jewish tradition, Simon followed in footsteps of Rosenzweig, the famous German-Jewish theologian.

Although his political views did not endear him to some political circles, Simon was highly regarded in Israel as a man of immense erudition and his sincerity was widely perceived.

When he received in 1967 the Israel Prize, the country's highest award, it was an acknowledgement of an outstanding as well as a brave personality.

### SIR KEITH HANCOCK

*GIS writes:*

Your obituary of Sir Keith Hancock (Aug 16) embraced the astonishing range and quality of his academic work as a social historian — in one sense a pillar of our understanding of the nature of the Commonwealth — yet it may be appropriate to add this personal experience.

During the war years in London we met every Wednesday night as fire-watchers at St Paul's Cathedral. As fellow Australians, we talked with nostalgia about the rural areas in which we had been raised and of his love for people. His memories of the

kindness within them shone in those blackened nights.

His wife, Theodora, was then my colleague broadcasting from the BBC to the Pacific. Keith's interest in that







## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Man of his times

The comforting absurdities of our traditional academic institutions are such that it is probable that even those big brains in small-minded 1950s Cambridge who sent down Mark Boxer for blasphemy, would not have thought that his transgression against the Lord, as an enterprising student magazine editor, would be a serious impediment to his ascending later to an Anglican heaven.

The dictatorial tones of some current religious voices are such that when, last night, BBC2 repeated Boxer's humorous, self-reflective, 1972 film, *Half Way Mark*, in honour of a man so cruelly prevented from completing the second half of his life, his flip reference to those who so absurdly charged humour with blasphemy seemed, alas, curiously dated.

Boxer himself was too delightfully human not to be now where spirits still joyously sparkle perhaps enjoying a Marc cartoon about the travails of Martin Scorsese, if not, like in one of his recurrent dreams, floating over the talking heads at a cocktail party. But there was one poignant moment in the film, when the wit and urbane poise of a man so assured in society as to be able both to mock and enjoy its foibles, held back and let in death to the conversation. Walking on the Cambridge backs, he suddenly revealed quietly that his father had died the day before — then repeated a joke made to his father about not going to university.

Most of the film, though, was dominated by the easy vitality of Boxer. He looked almost arrogantly young for a man in his forties, effortlessly elegant even though dressed in the precarious fashion of the day. Those around him, including the interviewer, the late Francis Hope, sported bourgeois side-burns or pudding-bowl fringes, insipidly bold floral shirts and flared trousers.

The politics were also dated. And, even for a self-confessed left-wing "dandy" and "socialite", Boxer's persistent use of "one" to describe himself seemed to jar. Though, of course, as befitting a satirist who then provided the "graffiti" for *The Times*, Boxer was never so solemnly meek as to "know" his place or so presumptuous as to pretend to know what jokes against himself his God could not take.

Andrew Hislop

David Robinson on the highly-charged first film as director by an Oscar-winning cinematographer

## Through a child's eyes

## CINEMA

**A World Apart (PG)**  
Curzon West End

**Death of a Salesman (PG)**  
Camden Plaza

**Big Business (PG)**  
Odeon Leicester Square

**Rambo III (18)**  
Leicester Square Theatre,  
Odeon Marble Arch

**And God Created Woman (18)**  
Cannon Piccadilly

Not surprisingly, *A World Apart* shares with Richard Attenborough's *Cry Freedom* the distinction of being banned in South Africa: a tribute to the effectiveness and sincerity of both works. Chris Menges's film looks at that country's tragedy from the special viewpoint of a bright 13-year-old, the daughter of white activist supporters of the ANC. Molly's struggles to comprehend the awful things that are happening to her and to the people she loves, serve to invest the happenings with a special and immediate poignancy.

The story is set in 1963, at the moment when the ANC, after half a century of existence, was banned and Nelson Mandela and his colleagues sentenced to life imprisonment. A journalist, Gus Roth (Jerome Krabbé), disappears into hiding. Soon afterwards his wife Diana (Barbara Hershey) is arrested under the Ninety Day Detention Act leaving their bewildered children in the care of their grandmother. Ostracized at school, Molly sees the humiliation of her black friends.

Sick and fearful of cracking under interrogation and psychological torture, Diana attempts suicide and is eventually released. All Molly's frustrations and fears and loneliness burst out when she



Watchful and wary: Jodhi May, as Molly, struggles to make sense of what is happening to family and friends

confronts her mother with accusations that her commitment to the great cause has robbed her children of their rightful love (the Afrikaaner interrogator, played by David Suchet, has already taunted her, "You are a terrible mother").

Shawn Slovo's script gains great force — regardless of occasional clumsiness in structure and dialogue — from being her own story. She was six at the time (the age of Molly's younger sister); her father, Joe Slovo, is a lawyer and ANC activist; her mother, the journalist Ruth First, was murdered with a parcel bomb in 1982.

*A World Apart* marks Chris Menges's debut as feature director. Along with its deep and uncompromising commitment, the assurance and equilibrium are remarkable in a first film, shot under demanding location conditions (in Zimbabwe). An Oscar-

winning cinematographer in his own right, Menges worked here with the cameraman Peter Biziou, whose luminous images, far from "aestheticizing" the film, emphasize the tragic beauty of the world that men choose to mess up.

In Cannes, where the film took the Grand Jury Prize, the Best Actress prize was shared, exceptionally, by three of the players. The film mostly focuses on 13-year-old Jodhi May as a wonderfully watchful and self-contained Molly. Barbara Hershey, with a flawless Afrikaans accent, is Diana, courageous even though blind to her daughter's needs. Linda Mvusi, who plays the Roths' black maid, is in fact a South African architect.

The CBS-financed production of *Death of a Salesman* is a museum piece. Presented on Broadway prior to being filmed as

a television spectacular, it was overseen by Arthur Miller himself and recreated the stage devices employed in the original 1949 production, to represent the memories that haunt Willie Loman in the anguished last 24 hours of his life.

Director Volker Schlöndorff has preserved the period quality intact. The great attraction of the film, though, is the *tour de force* ensemble playing. In the role of Willie, Dustin Hoffman's technique is often too much on display and his mannerisms over-familiar; but John Malkovich's Biff, Kate Reid's Linda and Charles Durning's Charley, are performances of the highest calibre.

The London audiences of 1994 no doubt looked down their noses at Shakespeare's nerve in resuscitating comic corn like the gag about the twins in *The Comedy of Errors*. But old jokes never die,

and the same one turns up again in Dori Pierson and Marc Rubel's screenplay for *Big Business*.

From the first gag about a confusion between the urine samples and the afternoon lemon tea, the competence of the hospital in rustic Jupiter Hollow is in doubt. Sure enough, in no time at all they have muddled two pairs of girl twins — one set the offspring of a rich industrialist, the others of local hillbillies.

Years later, these harlequin twin-sets have grown up: one pair to rule an industrial empire; the others as activists fighting their unknown sisters' plans to strip the assets of the local industry.

Bette Midler is at her most winningly outrageous characterizing the two sisters brought up in different circumstances but both impelled by unquenchable ambition to be like Joan Collins in *Dynasty*. Lily Tomlin has more problems distinguishing the nicer, homespun sisters. This reckless farce, for weaker moments, was directed by Jim Abrahams.

*Rambo III* has not enjoyed the same box office success as its predecessors; and indeed can hardly yet have netted enough to cover the star's reputed \$20 million fee. Perhaps the politics are too complex (or too silly) for regular Stallone fans. John Rambo is pulled out of his retirement in a Buddhist monastery in Thailand, to rescue his old Green Beret colonel, who has infiltrated Afghanistan on an innocent mission to supply Stinger missiles to the Mujahidin.

Single-handed, the all-American hero fights off the dastardly Commie Russians: fiendish, sneering, sadistic torturers to a man. History has somehow passed Rambo by. Stallone himself increasingly looks and acts like something chiselled out of Mount Rushmore.

Thirty years on, Roger Vadim re-uses the title of his first film and worldwide success *And God Created Woman*. The new film has little in common with the first. Rebecca DeMornay, who is rather like a young but intense Shirley MacLaine, plays a prisoner who gets parole by marrying a willing stranger (Vincent Spano). Outside, she finds the road to happiness through song, blackmail and love unexpectedly discovered in the marriage of convenience. The performers are good but the script is not.

## PROMENADE CONCERT

## Orgy of control

NYPO/Mehta  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

This was the performance of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* for which one had dared to hope. The New York Philharmonic was at its characterful best: not sensuous, not even very subtle, but steaming through this beast of a score with matchless verve, a brilliant explosive quality, and the sharpest rhythms in the business.

The impact was heightened because Zubin Mehta, whose instincts usually veer towards more explicit emotionalism, kept the lid tightly on the slow build-ups, letting the tension grow. And even in the full flood of cross-rhythms and battering fortissimos, he never allowed orchestral cohesion to slip for a single semiquaver. It was a masterly demonstration of the control which, paradoxically, best releases the feeling of anarchic orgy that should dominate *The Rite*.

The NYPO's glory is its trumpets and trombones: their timbre has a diamond hardness; they triple-tongue like a chain-saw with a grudge. Does percussion playing of such disciplined venom flourish anywhere outside Manhattan?

Set against this, the rather dark-voiced horns and unremarkable woodwinds seem too much of a bunch; but the strings showed their paces in the encore from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Earlier, Murray Perahia had been the soloist in a delightful performance of Beethoven's "Emperor" Piano Concerto, full of inspired relaxations as well as pungent passagework.

There was nothing overly grandiose here, especially in the dance-like, jubilant finale: simply a magical relish of almost improvisational variations in touch and dynamics. Mehta's accompaniment was a model of alertness.

Luckily these magnificent performances almost erased all memory of the concert's first item, *Symphony*, a truly dreary 15 minutes from Pulitzer Prize winner Ellen Taaffe Zwilich.

Turgid melodies of instant forgettability set against witless, chugging rhythms; irritatingly prolonged semitonal ostinatos mingled with solos which had all the charisma of warm-up exercises. It is almost beyond belief that the New Yorkers chose to premiere this earnest drivel on their historic visit to Leningrad last spring.

Richard Morrison

Hilary Finch on opera productions in a waterside setting at the Bregenz Festival in Austria

## Over the top and into the lake

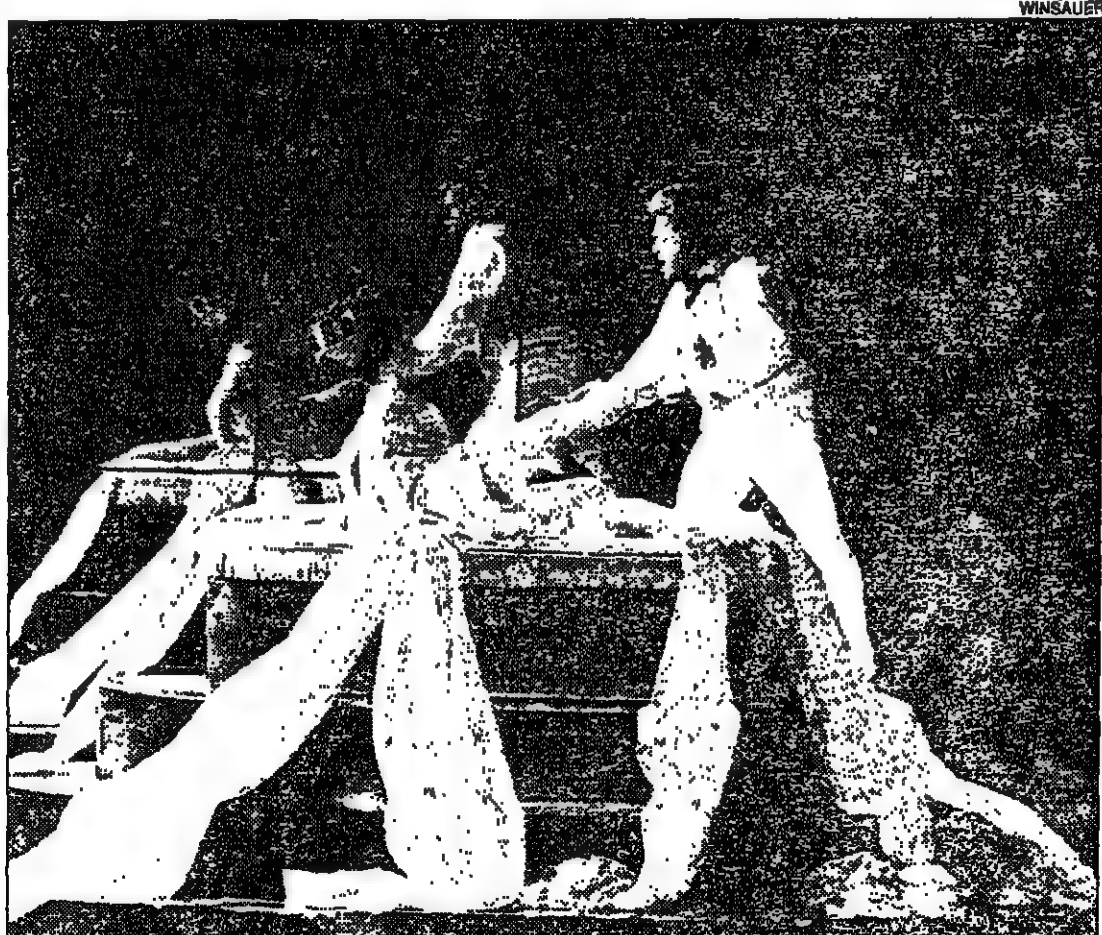
Every evening at about 7pm all eyes in Bregenz are upturned to watch the direction of the heavy clouds rolling over the Pfänder mountain and all noses nervously twitch to scent the direction of the wind. Every day it happens: every day the organizers have until 8pm to decide whether or not to go ahead with the performance on the huge floating lake-stage. At 8.30 the green lights start to twinkle: *The Tales of Hoffmann* will be told once again.

Jérôme Savary's production is in its second year, having survived perilously high water levels, winds which almost blew Hoffmann's Muse over the border into Switzerland, and the vagaries of 240 light circuits and 23 fog machines. So wide is the stage, so many its levels, so relentless its activity, that it is almost best seen from the Pfänder cable car. But a ticket for the back stalls, complete with thick blanket, will purchase a night of spectacle which this year was substantiated by considerable musical rewards.

This is a *Hoffmann* in which naked ladies dive nonchalantly into the lake; in which a ballet of the blind dance in front of rows of huge plastic eyes at Dr Coppélius's house, Olympia has three Amazons as ladies-in-waiting; five-metre high candy-coloured dolls roll on as the ultimate kitsch celebration of the ewig Weiblichkeit, only to be joined by a seven-metre high lurid pink model of Olympia herself.

As if it were not enough to hire four real gondolas, complete with homesick gondoliers, to glide round the stage during the Venetian act, there is a grand *harcarolle* reprise to a fireworks display which would have stretched the skills of a Dr Miracle himself.

The orgy of activity which shamelessly distracts from the matter in hand in all but the Antonia scene is the production's entire *raison d'être* and one might as well give in to its virtuosic technological enchantment, especially when the balance between the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Michel Le Boies, the chorus, and each soloist is, thanks to a multidirectional sound system, near perfect.



The Venetian act: Josef Protschka as Hoffmann in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, making advances to Giulietta

This year, though, Hoffmann himself was a creature of real flesh and blood. The Bregenz Festival had got hold of Josef Protschka, in Europe a much sought after Tamino and Lensky, but in England still known only on disc. His tenor, resilient, lyrical and of exciting musical intelligence, frequently stopped the audience in their tracks every bit as much as the production itself. Barbara Hahn's Nicklaus, too, was bold and spirited, and Jürgen Freier, four villains in one, became an increasingly compelling vocal as well as physical presence.

With only a day's rest in between, Protschka offered a Schumann *Liederabend* in Bregenz's Theater am Kornmarkt which all but upstaged events in nearby Hohenems at the *Schubertade* recently. The voice itself, robust and full-bodied, is easier to listen to than Peter Schreier's: the artistry, each word inflected with minutely imaginative sensitivity and with the hand shadowing its spare, sympathetic gesture, is of similarly intense cultivation. I have heard few performances of such consistent and coherent insight; if London does not hear

Protschka soon, its musical life will be the poorer. Bregenz itself is focusing very much on England at the moment: next year David Pountney will be responsible for a *Flying Dutchman* on the lake-stage, and this year Steven Pimlott's new production of *Samson et Dalila* opened in the main indoor Festspielhaus.

Its success was clearly due to the vibrant simplicity of Tom Cairns's design (think of his *Troians*, think of *Billy Budd*) and a single good idea from Pimlott himself. That idea was to enslave the Hittite Hebrews between the leaning grey walls of a concentration camp: the swaying bodies, the long processions in this house of the dead, the mass of their groupings, the violence of their harassment by both truncheon and, later, by the seduction of Dalila's maidens, was most powerfully achieved.

The audience clearly took to their hearts, and so much so that, despite Pimlott's inability to reconcile the demands of social conscience with those of Saint-Saëns's Hollywood epic of an opera, the production will be revived next year. It proved, inevitably, impos-

sible to carry through his theme. The second act, saw the confrontation of Samson and Dalila for what it was, no more no less, though Samson's *faiblesse* was evident, alas, long before his haircut, due to the obvious and increasing indisposition of Carlo Cossutta. Margana Lipovsek's Dalila considerably reduced the dynamic, if not the emotional, charge of her performance, filling a single "hélas" with all the resolute intensity of timbre she could muster.

By act three, though, we were left with pure designer-opera: more glowing Cairns doorways, a striking *trompe-l'œil* perspective for a temple of Dagon peopled by rows of scarlet-clad dancing deacents, mouths moist with whipped cream, the air flutter with long red evening gloves. The ashes of the Hebrews were present in an obligatory little pile, stuck with multicoloured pen quills. It was visually stunning, dramatically incoherent, and, thanks to the grippingly idiomatic High Priest of Alan Fordary and the luxuriantly Gallic baton of Sylvain Cambreling, musically compelling.

## Muted rogue

## THEATRE

Bussy D'Ambois  
Old Vic

When a work as long abandoned as George Chapman's once popular tragedy returns to the stage, you assume the director has found some urgent reason for reviving it. Jonathan Miller does not declare his reasons, but it is easy to make *Bussy D'Ambois* sound a highly topical piece.

Based on the life of a hell-raising French courtier in the reign of Henri III, it presents him as a proudly independent man of honour, lured by the king's brother (Monsieur) from provincial penury into court life at a time when the centralized modern state was coming into existence.

Bussy, who cuts a dashing figure among the denatured sycophants and petty officials, springs up as "fortune's proud young mushroom", basking in the king's favour, until he announces his plans for reforming courtly corruption: at which point, Monsieur (his patron) and the Duke of Guise (his frustrated enemy) join forces to destroy him. They do so with gunfire at the moment of his victory in a sword duel. Thus does the mechanism of the State assert its indifference to human valour. The mechanism has been grinding on ever since.

That is a highly selective summary of the piece. Among the details I have omitted are Bussy's slaughter of three sniggering courtiers on his day of arrival, and his seduction of the Countess Tamyra who undergoes a nasty torture session on his behalf.

There are all kinds of ways of looking at him: as a courtly lover adrift in a Renaissance time warp; as a moral idiot, to whom blood-letting, adultery, and civic reform are all the same thing; as an image of the natural man in an environment of malignant artifice. Or as the spirit of rebellious independence in a time of political absolutism.

What we get from David Threlfall's performance is Bussy as a Jacobean D.H. Lawrence: a figure of uncouth integrity, confronting court smoothies with surly intelligence, and doing his stuff for the king (an agitatedly indecisive John Franklyn-Robbins) with exaggerated irony. Played like this, Bussy emerges less a hero and "complete man" than a menace to everyone who crosses his path.

Hugh Ross's Monsieur, suavely masked and asserting rank with the most delicate shades of patron-

DONALD COOPER



Torture time for Tamyra: with Sara Kestelman, Lorcan Cranitch

age, does most to bring Chapman's knotty and congested lines into theatrical life: above all at the one moment when his control snaps with the shriek, "He is nobly born", when Bussy arrogantly claims equality with Guise. Sara Kestelman (as Tamyra) also, makes the language ring like steel on steel, once her ordeal begins.

This is not until the second half of the play. Bussy's rise is conducted in an atmosphere of uneventful civilities (all violence reported by messenger), while his downfall gets the full channel-house treatment. It seems that Jonathan Miller has taken this as a cue to the performance style and warned his company against bombast.

Thus, verse that rumbles and roars even on the page, clearly demanding all the resources of heroic delivery, is mainly delivered by thin voices making no use of sustained tone, and putting more emphasis on Chapman's moral lectures than on dramatic rapport.

Likewise, Richard Hudson's set, a monumental assembly of blank windows and empty doorways, still inscribed with architectural calculations as if straight off the drawing board, disseminates a pervasive chill. It may be meant to represent the inhumanity of state power; but it rather suggests the first open day at a developer's show palace.

Irving Wardle

## CONCERT

## Skilful insight

Robert Tear/  
Mitsuko Uchida  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

One of the great links between Britten and Schubert was the exquisite skill of the first composer in interpreting the music of the second. Once heard, never forgotten; and rarely since I listened to Britten, accompanying Pears in a recital of Schubert's songs, have I heard playing of such mercurial and instinctive understanding as that shown by Mitsuko Uchida at Tuesday's Summerscope concert.

It is extremely difficult to put a finger on what that particular quality is. But the spontaneous feeling for the pulse of the note in meeting the word, and the elusive changes of mood within her playing, quite upstaged the singing of Robert Tear in a group of Schubert's Goethe songs.

I am sure that is the last thing Uchida would have wanted; and it is not to imply that she was not attuned equally finely to Tear's own performance. But, where the fingers seized on the gist of impatient notes in the rapture of "Versunken", Tear's voice sounded a little flustered, even a little flagging.

And where he tensed up in an effort to sustain an already admirable intensity of legato for the meditation of the Harper's Song, Uchida had already found the song's still centre.

They were, perhaps, more evenly matched in imaginative response in Britten's own "Winter Words". Tear seemed to enjoy the pull between Thomas Hardy's rough-hewn rustic wisdom and Britten's more rarefied transformation of it. He gave the choir master at his burial a fine send-off, and found a light poignancy for "At the Railway Station", which was almost the equal of Uchida's wonderfully *haiku-like* eloquence in each line.

Their recital was framed by the Endellion Quartet's performance of Schubert's *Quartettsatz* — a file of too sketchy, too lightweight — and by their more deeply assimilated, powerful reading of Britten's *Second String Quartet*.

H.F.

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## BOOKS

هنا من النجول

## Rectors and rice pud

**Victoria Glendinning reads A. N. Wilson's sharp and amusing story of boyhood and adolescence**

**INCLINE OUR HEARTS**  
By A. N. Wilson  
Hamish Hamilton, £11.95

**N**ot another new book by A. N. Wilson? It is only a few weeks since the publication of his substantial — and good — life of Tolstoy, for which he took the trouble to learn Russian. Before that there was a collection of his journalism, and last year a novel, and beyond that I lose track, but there are now about 17 books altogether, several of them prize-winners, all written within 11 years.

Compared with somebody like Barbara Cartland, of course, he is a slouch. There are other ways in which he is unlike Barbara Cartland. His sentences are longer, and he gets reviewed at length on pages such as this one. This is because he is a clever man and a brilliant writer; but he is also a maddening one. Trying to come to grips with him is like catching spray from a garden hose.

It sounds from the title as if the new outfall might be a meditation on religious belief, like *How Can We Know?* But *Incline Our Hearts* is a novel, and it is about disbelief. Julian Ramsay, the middle-aged narrator, is telling the story of his childhood and adolescence.

A war-orphan, he is brought up in the late 1940s austerity of a freezing Norfolk rectory by a tweedy, bluff Aunt Deirdre, the provider of grey cottage pie and "good old rice pud", and Uncle Roy, the dotty rector, whose religious fervour is directed less towards God than towards the Lampitts, the "interesting" and fairly grand family who own the big house in the village. Uncle Roy is a Lampitt fanatic, buttonholing everybody from Julian's teachers to station porters with anecdotes about the amazing Lampitts.

All the Norfolk part is sharp and funny, but this narrator talks with many voices. Much of his story is about life in the "English Gulas" — prep school and public school. While emphasizing the dreariness of the system and the un-funniness of school-boy humour, he gives us a heavy dose of both. The narrator, or author, is infatuated with the objects of his derision.



GLYNIS BOYD HART

Julian's schoolmasters are portrayed exaggeratedly as "characters", which is how the boys see them; this artificial simplification is also, as the narrator says elsewhere, the only way you can make people seem real in books, even though no one in life is ever so sharply defined, particularly not to himself. The novel is full of tricks. It exploits all the rules which the narrator is exposing as artificial. Wilson the critic molests Wilson the novelist.

Telling his story gives the narrator, or the author, an opportunity for epigrammatic statements about snobbery, lust, love, religion, punishment, fiction, truth, mem-

ory, and "the almost universal tendency to rewrite and readjust the past". Any attempt at honest reconstruction of one's own past is "doomed to failure". The narrator is, therefore, not telling the truth. England, in any case, is "the country where nobody means anything they say to one another".

Attempts to reconstruct someone else's past are even worse. A biographer seems to be, by the way, an essential character in the modern literary novel, like a bishop in Trollope. Wilson the novelist flagellates Wilson the biographer: "Of all liars the most arrogant are biographers", who imagine they can play the recording angel "and tell

the whole truth about another human life". No biographer thinks that, as Wilson knows. But a biographer is the devil, or dark angel, in the theology of this novel. His name is Raphael Hunter, and he soars to fame by writing a sensational three-volume life of a member of the sacred Lampitt family — a forgotten *belle-triste* who sounds, from the invented quotations, exactly like Lytton Strachey. (If anyone is tempted to make any further identifications of the originals of Wilson's characters it is entirely his own business. Fiction, like biography, is all lies.)

**T**he ambitious and unscrupulous Hunter gets hold of the unsorted Lampitt papers and writes up his subject as a rampant homosexual, ruining the lives of Uncle Roy and all it all up. "One accomplishes nothing so stylishly as the thing in which one has no belief."

The narrator has a personal nexus with Hunter, who appears to be bisexual. It starts at prep school when he sees Hunter kissing the art mistress, whom the boy adores from afar. As a young adult, he discovers that any woman with whom he becomes involved has been involved, painfully, with Hunter before.

How did the biographer find the time for all those afternoons of "zipping and unzipping", what with writing his huge tomes and all the committee work he does? There are too many connections with Hunter in his life, thinks the narrator, for it to be coincidence. Is Hunter a magician, an "occult master", pulling all the strings?

If this sounds rather like Iris Murdoch, it is. There are also lots of references to Proust, whom the narrator says he has never read, though he obviously has. (Lying again.) Maybe Wilson is planning his own retrieval of *Time Lost*, or his own *Dance to the Music of Time*. No sequel is announced, but we are told that the wicked biographer's "exact role in the drama" has yet to be disclosed. There are half a dozen similar pointers, so portentous as to be ironic — another literary device being mocked as it is being exploited. Maybe there will be no sequel to *Incline Our Hearts*. That would be quite a good joke.

The narrator's earliest memories are of screaming and crying in bed at night, terrified of being left alone. "I can remember the awful jerks in my voice as I cried out, increasingly incoherently, 'Stay with me, stay with me!'" Is that what all authors are saying?

I'll stay with Wilson indefinitely, though I'm exhausted by trying to catch the spray and would be grateful for his simple truth or, failing that, some simpler lies.

## A look inside Stalin's mind

FICTION

Andrew Sinclair

CHILDREN OF THE ARBAT

By Anatoli Rybakov

Hutchinson, £12.95

WORLD'S END

By T. Coraghessan Boyle

Macmillan, £12.95

THE TWO DEATHS OF SENORA PUCCINI

By Stephen Dobyns

Viking, £11.95

Children of the Arbat are young people who live in a Moscow block of flats, where the intelligentsia congregates. Stalin is beginning his purge of that subclass. He believes that historical science has chosen him to be the successor to Lenin and the sole Leader of Russia. He is the only one to understand supreme power and know how to use it. In remarkable analyses of Stalin's mind, Anatoli Rybakov ascribes to him statements that Machiavelli would not have dared to give to the Prince. "Friends are never equals... Jews never understand the idea of a leader... Magnanimity towards a conquered enemy is dangerous... Death solves all problems. No man, no problem."

This is the fascination of this novel of its time. Russia under Gorbachov has allowed the book to be printed, openly critical of the leadership cult and ruthlessness of Stalin. Like the author, the young hero is exiled to Siberia, although he is a good Communist. It is the beginning of the purges of the 1930s, when paranoia became institutional, and the conspiracy theory of history was the fact of the Gulag.

Tens of millions died because of the fear and theory of supreme power of one autocrat, as relentless and savage as his contemporary, Hitler, who did not even achieve numerically the mass murders that Stalin did. Rybakov has written an illuminating period piece, although his simplistic prose and conventional characterization do not put it in the class of *Doctor Zhivago*, as his publisher claims. The book, however, is a monumental work that all should read who wish to learn how absolute power persecutes absolutely.

If *Children of the Arbat* still deals with the dialectic of history, *World's End* deals with the dialectic of biology. Over 12 generations, two Dutch-American families and one Indian family work out their relationships as *patron* tenant farmer and barbarian through adultery, miscegenation, rape, assault and a murder or two. T. Coraghessan Boyle ingeniously plots across the centuries so that the last of the Kittiwanks, who have lost their Hudson Valley lands to the immigrant Dutch, becomes the father of the last of the *patrons*. Sexual revenge is sweet, heredity is meaningless, sons of whatever descent are the future. In rich and sensuous prose, studded like a mace with knobs of black humour, Boyle invokes the colonial past, the anti-Red crusade in post-war America, and the decade of flower-power 20 years later.

Not since Thomas Pynchon has any fresh American writer so cunningly lit the fuses of history so that they detonate in time recently present. Each of the three periods in each of three families is crosscut as expertly as marquetry, leaving patterns of trait and cause, circumstance and instinct that entrance the inward eye. Most effective is the mixed aggression and final cowardice of the Van Brunts, doomed by a genetic flaw to bluster and finally betray themselves. *World's End* is a book to treasure and savour. It will never leave my shelves, because I have only begun to scrape at its riches.

"Even if he wants to know," the narrator says in *The Two Deaths of Senora Puccini* "he is in fact capable of knowing." By the end of a dinner with Dr Pacheco on a night of revolution in a South American city, his three friends and guests know too much and also nothing of his story of sexual obsession with his housekeeper, Antonia Puccini, whose fiancé has lain paralysed in an attic for 20 years. Pacheco himself is a Don Juan; he has seduced a thousand women, including the wives of his guests, but he cannot assuage his desire for Antonia, whom he bullies and blackmails and wants and fails to possess. A gargantuan feast is eaten: its blind cook is shot; an old white horse is killed outside; the house fills with wounded soldiers and vicious army officers; in the end, they kill Pacheco and Antonia, who has provoked them with a pistol.

No more powerful and remorseless examination of passion and frustration has been written for many years. All the South American men are crippled by the urge for women and inability to manage even an affair. The novel is also an analysis of memory as lie and justification, of the destruction of the present by the revelation of the past. Stephen Dobyns, whose wife is Chilean, has written a wounding book of concentration on male behaviour down South that ranks beside the recent work of Lhosa, Puig and Marquez. His novel haunts and compels.

## Blurred artistic vision

Tom Lubbock

**THE WORLD THROUGH BLUNTED SIGHT**  
By Patrick Trevor-Roper  
Viking, £16.95

clearly enough, but the detail of a distant motif was beyond them. And when he was offered a pair of spectacles, Monet is supposed to have answered, "Bon Dieu, je vois comme Bouguereau" (a despised academic) and handed them back; though that story, surely, is an apocryphal joke.

And this all leads Trevor-Roper to "wonder how different the world of art might have been if these famous artists had been forced to wear glasses constantly". One answer, if these ideas are right, is, of course, they might not have become famous artists at all,

if they had all seen like Bouguereau. But then, the question reverts from medicine to art history: what were the conditions which, in the last century, afforded the myopia an artistic career, formerly denied him? But the author won't get into such matters, because he is so disarmingly modest about the scope of his expert knowledge.

He fears, perhaps, that this kind of approach, too rigorously pursued, has a rather disreputable pedigree: the easy recourse to pathology of *fin de siècle* philistinism. He rejects as "irresponsible" the diagnosis by earlier eye doctors of astigmatism in El Greco's elongated forms. Apart from anything else, if El Greco saw normal forms as elongated, then to replicate this elongation to himself he would have to paint normal pictures. All the same, the book has fun "correcting" El Greco's distortions, and Holbein's and Cranach's, with astigmatic lenses in a series of before and after illustrations.

Trevor-Roper is more of a *raconteur* than a reasoner, keen to rush on to his next phenomenon, whether it is Dürer's squint, or a huge bird-shaped "boat" which appeared in the eye of the aged Munch and subsequently in some of his late pictures. It would be hard to finish this book without some addition to your own conversation.

## Vulgar verse for scholars

Erich Segal

**PRIAPEA: POEMS FOR A PHALLIC GOD**  
Edited and translated by W.H. Parker  
Routledge, £25

can be found in the Appendix *Virgiliana*.

Parker's edition is important for many reasons. He has done excellent work on the Latin text, included generous explanatory notes, and most of all, supplied an unblinking translation — only the third Englishing of these verses. Sir Richard Burton publishes a version, but even pseudonymously he was too inhibited to be bluntly accurate.

These poems might also provide material to those schoolmasters seeking to augment the dwindling number of Latin students, by offering the prospect of reading so spicy a text. For the *Carmina* are composed in excellent Latin, are replete with mythological references, and are metrically splendid.

**G**anted, the vocabulary is a bit daring. Even the august *Oxford Latin Dictionary* offers little enlightenment on, for example, the verb *irrumare* ("the action of an irrumator"). But today's teenagers would find it all pretty mild, though Mrs Whitehouse might perhaps object.

Byron once lamented that he had been put off Horace for life because the study of that sophisticated poet was foisted on him at too early an age. But, since *tempora mutantur*, curricula should keep pace. Students who begin with these naughty poems might proceed to Catullus, who, in turn, would prepare them for Horace (perhaps beginning with the *praeceps Satire 1.3*).

Youth would not be inspired to depravity — the telly already does that. On the contrary, they might learn that an author's life is not synonymous with his art. As Ovid expressed it: *vita verecunda est*. *Musa iocosa mea* — in Robert Herrick's paraphrase: "Jocund his Muse was, but his life was chaste."



The Truth About Dogs, by Volker Kriegel, translated and introduced by Julian Barnes (Bloomsbury, £4.95), does to dogs what they do to pavements.

## NEW BOOKS

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

*Citizen Cohn*, by Nicholas Van Hofman (Harrap, £12.95). Blog of Roy Cohn, lawyer and power broker, who revelled in the venality stakes. His death from AIDS provoked the comment: "It couldn't happen to a nicer guy".

*The Tongue Set Free*, by Elias Canetti (Deutsch, £12.95). First volume of autobiography of the winner of 1981 Nobel for Literature.

*The Gardens of William and Mary*, by David Jacques and Arend Jan van der Horst (Christopher Helm, £15.95). Our most Dutch of formal gardens is Westbury Court, recently restored by the National Trust. *Eminent Victorians*, by Lytton Strachey (Bloomsbury, £14.95). New edition, heavily illustrated with foreword by Frances Partridge. Cardinal Manning, Florence Nightingale, Dr Arnold, and General Gordon are given a limp-wristed scourging.

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Hilary Bailey, *Guardian*

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Lynne Reid-Banks

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David Pryce-Jones

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Selina Hastings, *Daily Telegraph*

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that she deserves to  
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SELINA HASTINGS, *Daily Telegraph*

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FT-SE 100 1819.2 (+1.3)	W German mark 3.1790 (-0.0258)
USM (Datastream) 167.44 (-0.06)	Trade-weighted 75.9 (-0.2)

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## BAT still talking at expiry time

BAT and Farmers, the leading US insurance group, were still locked in merger talks last night just before the British group's £3 billion offer was due to expire. BAT set a deadline of 4pm, California time, but observers said that the negotiations could continue well beyond then.

Both companies are being secretive about progress of the discussions which are taking place at a secret location in Los Angeles.

But stock market dealers in London and Wall Street believe that BAT is close to an agreement with Farmers.

## Mecca attack

Mr Michael Guthrie, the Mecca Leisure chairman, has launched an attack on Pleasurama's management in his offer document.

The document sets out Mecca's £750 million bid. Mr Guthrie told Pleasurama shareholders that their board was "expanding into activities where it has only limited management experience itself".

## Weir advance

Weir Group, the Glasgow pumps and engineering group, has increased its half-year dividend from 1.25p to 2.25p on a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.84 million.

Tempus, page 22

## STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2005.51 (+16.18)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27799.57 (-120.28)
Hong Kong		2520.29 (-11.84)
Amsterdam	Gen	257.8 (+0.4)
Sydney	10	1622.9 (+3.0)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1462.2 (+0.2)
Buenos Aires	General	4880.1 (+0.9)
Paris	CAC	352.6 (+1.0)
Zurich	SKA Gen	475.1 (+0.5)
London		
FT-30 Share		1467.5 (+1.4)
FT-100		1819.2 (+1.3)
Gold Mines		197.5 (+2.5)
FT Fixed Interest		97.23 (+0.15)
FT Govt Secs		97.80 (-0.04)
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Closing prices		Page 26

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:		
American	627.5 (+22.0)	
British	1530 (+100)	
Security Services	4000 (+17)	
Clifford's Dairy	5000 (+100)	
Geest	278.5 (+10.5)	
Moss Bros	2500 (+100)	
GR	7200 (+150)	
Hawker Siddeley	524.5 (+30)	
Devis & Newman	6550 (+100)	
Property Security	1750 (+100)	
Brent Walker	353.5 (+7)	
Handwritten Admin	7050 (+100)	
Pico	2800 (+310)	
Securor	4350 (+350)	
FALLS:		
Whitbread 'B'	6300 (-30)	
Ranger	349.5 (-80)	
Perrish	1800 (-100)	
Greenland House	3500 (-100)	
Courts Furn 'A'	273.5 (-80)	
VG Instruments	3400 (-80)	
Closing prices		
Gains		19822

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate:	11%
3-month interbank:	11.11%
3-month eligible bills:	11.11%
US Prime Rate:	10%
Federal Funds:	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury bills:	7.17-7.18%
30-year bonds:	9.71-9.72%

## CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$:	\$1.6780
£/DM:	DM1.8550
£/Sfr:	Sfr1.5970
£/FF:	FF6.4345
£/Yen:	Yen134.26
£/Index:	Index:100.0
ECU:	ECU 10.65266

## GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$432.10 pm \$433.00	
close \$433.75-434.25 (258.50-259.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$435.70-436.20	

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept) pm \$15.00bbl (\$15.00)	
Denotes latest trading price	

## THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stockwatch yesterday included: Pico (02994) up 29p on a 30% expansion in final profits, while Geest (04249) lifted 14p on rumours of an impending bid.  
TR Industrial and General (02139) rose 13p following the mandatory bid from the British Coal Pension Fund. Elsewhere, Scantronic (01113) announced a 29m rights issue and shares fell 7p.  
● Recent additions include: Bonded Laminates 8p conv pref. 03425. New Throgmorton Zero Debenture 03426.  
● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

# Tax increases urged as trade fears escalate

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

City pressure for a rise in base rates increased yesterday, as sterling weakened in response to gloom on the balance of payments and nervousness ahead of today's trade figures.

The National Institute for Economic and Social Research, in its August *Economic Review*, published last night, predicted current account deficits of £11.2 billion this year and £13.4 billion in 1989, and urged the Chancellor to raise direct taxes on individuals in his Autumn Statement in November.

The Bank of England again failed to signal a rise in base rates, in spite of growing pressure from rising money-market rates.

"The markets are going through torture because they have been anticipating a move for two days," said Mr Neil MacKinnon, economist at Chase Manhattan Securities. "Although the timing is difficult to predict it is almost certain we will see higher rates."

Dealers believe that the authorities have been attempting to hold base rates at 11 per cent in order to give the recent tightening of monetary policy time to work through. But sterling weakness could force the Treasury's hand, it is thought.

The three-month interbank

rate closed at 11 1/4-11 1/2 per cent as sterling weakened. Some traders spoke of a full one point rise in base rates, to 12 per cent, although the consensus was that the authorities would continue to move in half-point steps.

The pound fell by nearly three pence to DM3.1769 and by a third of a cent to

## US deficit at three-year low

The US merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$29.94 billion (£17.8 billion) in the April-June second quarter of this year, the smallest gap in three years. The figure is 14.9 per cent below the revised deficit of \$35.2 billion. Analysts expect a narrowing for the rest of this year.

\$1.6780. The sterling index fell by 0.2 points to 75.9.

The National Institute, which said in February that there was no room for a cut in income tax in the March Budget, said in its August *Review* that the economic situation has turned out as it feared, with domestic demand growing at an unsustainable pace.

It criticized the policy of raising interest rates to choke off demand, because of damaging effects on investment and the expansion of

industrial capacity. "The appropriate way of moderating the growth of consumer spending is not, in our view, to raise interest rates or limit the availability of credit, but to raise taxes," the *Review* said.

Higher VAT or excise duties would be damaging at a time when inflation is rising, and so the Institute called for action, in the Autumn Statement, on direct taxation. Recognizing that the Chancellor is unlikely to reverse his recent income tax cuts, it suggested an increase in employees' National Insurance contributions.

Treasury officials pointed out that an increase in employees' National Insurance contributions, if announced in November, would not take effect until the following April.

Growth in the economy was forecast at 3.9 per cent this year, against 4.8 per cent last year, with some slowdown towards the end of the year. Unemployment is predicted to fall below 2 million in the middle of next year.

Inflation is forecast to be nearly 5 per cent at the end of the year, rising to 6 per cent in the second quarter of next. In its main forecast, the Institute sees sterling depreciating gradually from present levels, and the current account deficit rising to £14-15 billion a year in the early 1990s.

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# Pernod admits to talks with Irish Distillers

By Michael Tate and Susan MacDonald

The Pernod-Ricard drinks group may, after all, launch a white knight takeover bid for Irish Distillers Group, the Jameson and Bushmills company fighting off an unwanted £212 million offer from Grand Metropolitan.

After discussions with the Takeover Panel, the French company yesterday moved to "clarify" its role in the confused takeover affair. In a Stock Exchange statement, it admitted having talks with the Irish group and owning a small share stake but refused to say how large. It hoped to make an announcement next week.

This flatly contradicted the denial from a Pernod-Ricard spokesman in Paris on Tues-

day. He insisted then that the group had no intention of making a counter-bid, and insisted that it held no shares in Irish Distillers.

The confusion caused speculation about whether the contradictory statements were clever manoeuvring or plain incompetence, but the Takeover Panel declared itself satisfied yesterday that there had been "a genuine mistake" and that the position had been satisfactorily clarified.

"Everything has changed," was how an embarrassed Pernod-Ricard spokesman reacted yesterday.

"On Monday," he said, "we were completely out of our dealings with IDG, but now discussions between ourselves

and IDG are underway." His reluctance to explain why the Pernod-Ricard management had denied one day what it admitted the next was because of the delicacy of the talks in progress, he explained.

"We didn't really lie," he added. "Our holding in IDG is so small that we are not obliged to declare it."

Pernod-Ricard refused to comment further on the talks now in progress.

GrandMet responded by accusing the IDG board of allowing "considerable confusion and uncertainty" to develop.

It also noted that IDG "evidently recognizes that it needs the assistance of a larger drinks company."

# Coal funds launch £560m trust bid

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The British Coal Pension Funds yesterday launched a £560.5 million bid for Touche Remnant Industrial & General Trust. It is the largest bid so far in the investment trust sector.

The funds' £29.5p-a-share bid was triggered by the purchase of a 6.8 per cent stake in Trig held by Standard Life, the Scottish life assurance company. This took the funds' stake from 29.3 per cent to 36.1 per cent - well above the level at which a bid becomes obligatory under the Takeover Code.

Mr Barry Southcott, managing director of CIN Management which handles the pension funds' invest-

ments, said: "This is meant to be a low-key non-aggressive offer made because of the increase in our shareholding." The pension funds currently have assets of about £10 billion.

The bid price represents an 8 per cent discount to Trig's net asset value, a substantial improvement on the 17 per cent discount contained in Tuesday's share price of 115p.

Trig is widely expected to reject the offer although it responded cautiously yesterday, since most of its directors were away, by advising shareholders to do nothing while the trust consulted its advisers.

Comment, page 23

# Aldermanbury to be investigated

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, has appointed an Inspector to investigate the affairs of Aldermanbury Trust, a loss-making investment company based in Harley Green, Clifton-on-Thames, Worcester.

Accountant Mr Stephen Box of Deloittes has been asked to look at the company's records even before a legal inspector is appointed to make up the team.

Aldermanbury has been controlled by its chairman Mr GWF Fulcher, who is shown last year as owning 93 million of its 136 million 1p shares. The company registered a net loss of £196,000 on disclosed turnover of £50,000 in the

year to March 1987, but showed shareholders' funds of £3.6 million.

In May, Levy Gee, Aldermanbury's auditors, said it had reason to believe that audited accounts for the period from October 1985 to March 1987 did not show an entirely true and fair view and had therefore withdrawn its audit report. The company also admitted breaching its own articles of association.

The Inspectors are being controlled under Section 432 (2) of the Companies Act, which covers circumstances suggesting intent to defraud, unfair treatment of some members or unreasonable lack of information.

Mr Whittaker emerged this week to say the £120 million figure was based on an independent valuation of the company. This calculation included land values and a proportion for developers' profits. It was conducted by Dunlop Heywood, the chartered surveyor, and agreed with BZW after negotiation. An earlier valuation in December 1986 calculated the shares at £3 each.

"You cannot make strides like that again in value. The site is by no means certain to get planning permission and it would be impossible to put any odds on," Mr Whittaker said. "In the meantime the company requires a high degree of commitment for maintenance, dredging, looking after locks and sluices - it is very high cost port. That is why no dividend is paid and I take no director or management fees or expenses. We are working on a long scale timetable for returns."

Now we will sit back and wait. After all, we are where we were before."

# QUEENS MOAT HOUSES P.L.C. QUEENS COURT

6-17 EASTERN ROAD ROMFORD ESSEX RM1 3NG



Booyant prospects all round: chairman John Bairstow (Photograph: John Manning)

# Queens Moat profit up 90%

By Carol Ferguson

Queens Moat Houses, the provincial hotels group, announced a 90 per cent increase in interim profits to £17.2 million.

The results had a strong boost from last October's acquisitions in West Germany and the Netherlands, but Mr John Bairstow, the chairman, said that underlying organic growth in Britain, excluding acquisitions, had been 17 per cent.

"The group now operates 117 hotels with over 12,000 bedrooms in five European countries - the UK, West

Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland," Mr Bairstow said. "Trade in all areas of operation has been very buoyant and there is every prospect of further increased profits in the future."

The group has reviewed its property portfolio at the half year stage and estimates that its total value is £810 million, an increase of £125 million over previous values.

Net assets per share, mostly represented by freehold or long leasehold property, are estimated by the company at 130p. The share price was steady yesterday at 107p.

Mr Bairstow said that the

group remained committed to developing and upgrading its existing hotels through extensions and refurbishments.

"We also have a considerable new building programme," he said. Seven new hotels are currently under construction, six in England and one at Leuven in Belgium. He said that the newly completed Reading Moat House is to be officially opened in September.

Turnover was up 53 per cent to £107 million, and an interim dividend of 1.06p net per share was declared, an increase of 0.6p on last year.

Tempus, page 22

# Investment company chief is charged

The West Midlands fraud squad has arrested Mr Jonathan Charles Miles, managing director of Birmingham-based financial intermediary Jonathon Charles Investment Management Services.

Mr Miles was last night charged with three offences of theft totalling £92,000. He was arrested after an investigation by the fraud squad and the Securities and Investments Board.

# Hanson at a record

Pre-tax profits of Hanson, the bricks-to-batteries conglomerate, are running 17.1 per cent higher than a year ago, at a record £605 million, with nine months of the current year gone. Earnings per share are 13.3 pence up at 11.1p.

The three months to June 30 produced pre-tax profits of £249 million, against £205 million for the same period last year, on a turnover up from £1.46 billion to £1.86 billion.

Lord Hanson, the chairman, said that the excellent

progress seen at the half year stage had continued into the third quarter, with good performance from the businesses in Britain and the US.

The results include an eight-month contribution from the Kiddle acquisition where, according to Sir Gordon White, the chairman of Hanson Industries, the US operation, the restructuring is progressing "splendidly."

The nine-month figures include a full nine months for Kaiser, against a six-month contribution last time.

# Clowes '£75m could be regained'

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Peter Clowes, the former head of Barlow Clowes, said yesterday that he thought at least £75 million could be recovered for investors in Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar end of the collapsed investment group.

"I am not trying to be unduly optimistic, or to give investors false hopes, but I do think it is important that they realize that they have not lost all their capital," he said.

BCI owes a total of £138 million to investors of which about £100 million represents their capital, the balance consists of interest.

Mr Clowes said his £75 million calculation was "the best estimate of the realizable assets of BCI."

"A lot of these assets are recoverable with varying degrees of difficulty," he said.

The liquidators of BCI are known to take a more conservative approach to the realizable assets of BCI. So far they have recovered about £16 million in cash and gilts.

Moreover, BCI investors thought - and were always told by their financial intermediaries - that all their money was going into gilts. Mr Clowes divided the £75 million recoverable into five categories: "cash, deposits and gilts" he said there was £16 million cash in the bank, gilts of £1.75 million, an £11 million back to back loan to James Ferguson Holdings, the parent company of Barlow Clowes, a £250,000 loan on a property in Exeter and a £250,000 loan to Dr Peter Naylor, a former Barlow Clowes director.

Also included are loans of £2.1 million to subsidiaries of James Ferguson. Mr Clowes said his second category - "investment companies" - should produce £11 million. This included £6 million owed by three offshore vehicles all going under the name of "Tifa" and £3 million of BCI investors' money from a property company called Megerberry, which owns the Barlow Clowes Cheshire headquarters.

Mr Clowes's third category, "quoted company shares" should produce £20.5 million he said. This includes stakes in Buckley's Brewery, and CH Bailey, plus a batch of blue chip shares worth £5 million. A fourth category, "dollar companies" should produce about £2.73 million. This included companies owning a yacht called Yara, two aviation companies and a French Chateau in Bordeaux.

The final category, called "personal assets" totals £10 million and includes Mr Clowes's "conservative estimate" of his own assets at £4 million.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Pifco beats forecasts with rise to £2.02m

Shares in Pifco, the Manchester electrical appliance manufacturer, jumped 31p to £2.02 yesterday, following an increase in pre-tax profits to £2.02 million, up from £1.56 million, in the year ended April. The figures were significantly better than market expectations. Sales, however, grew only marginally to £19.03 million. The company owns three well-known brands: Pifco, Salton and House of Carmel. The most recent acquisition was House of Carmel, the hair dryer-to-beater roller manufacturer, which was bought in 1987 for £845,000. Previously, Pifco failed with its bids for Russell Hobbs and Swan.

The company plans to make further acquisitions in the small appliances market. Earnings per share have grown from 24.9p to 35.8p. The company announced a final dividend of 5.5p, making a total of 8.5p against 6.5p last year.

## Falcon 58% with Godfrey

The £43 million agreed offer by Godfrey Davis, the textiles, laundry and fleet hire services company, for Falcon Industries, the portable buildings group, has gone unconditional. Godfrey Davis has received acceptances representing 58.91 per cent of Falcon's share capital. The offer remains open until further notice.

## Waverley bid extension

The £29.11 million takeover bid by Waverley Cameron, the Edinburgh stationery group headed by Mr James Galloway, for Martin Groom, the Manchester-based USM-quoted office equipment group, has been extended by 14 days. Waverley says it now owns 76.36 per cent of Martin Groom's share capital.

## 24% rise for Honda

Strong domestic sales, effective cost-cutting measures and price increases overseas helped boost Honda group operating profits to ¥42.24 billion (£187.5 million) in the three months to end-June 30, 1988, a notional 24.3 per cent rise. The notional comparison was made because Honda has changed its business year. Lower income tax rates and higher contributions from subsidiaries and affiliates also helped raise group net income a notional 22 per cent to ¥26.03 billion.

Car sales in the three-month period totalled ¥601.06 billion, up a notional 15 per cent due to higher sales.

## Tour section trims losses

Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust, the coach tour to motor dealerships group, lifted pre-tax profits from £609,000 to £814,000 in the six months to end-June. There is an interim dividend of 3.5p (3p) and earnings per share are 8.4p (6.4p). Wallace Arnold tour operations trimmed first half losses from £303,000 to £185,000.

## Eternit buys from T&amp;N

Eternit, one of the largest makers of fibre cement products, has bought the outstanding 49 per cent stake in Eternit TAC, its British subsidiary from T&N, together with T&N's 49 per cent holding in Irish Tegral Group, for £7 million. CRH, the Irish building materials group, has also sold its holding in Tegral to Eternit.

## Brierley silent on plans

Sir Ron Brierley, the chairman of the Bank of New Zealand, has declined to comment on his future with the bank in the face of public calls for his resignation. Sir Ron said in Wellington that he has replied to a letter from the government to the directors of state-owned enterprises. The letter tells them to resign if they are faced with a conflict of interest when negotiating the sale of the assets to private buyers.

The government has said it plans to sell its 85 per cent holding in the BNZ and Brierley Investments. Sir Ron's investment company, has said that it is interested. Sir Ron declined to say what his response to the government letter was. He confirmed that he saw no conflict of interest in his dual position.

## SA 'unable to pay back \$11bn debt'

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa's gold and foreign reserves have slumped to a level whereby it will be unable to repay debts of \$11 billion (£6.54 billion) in current circumstances, says Dr Chris Stals, the director general of finance.

According to Dr Stals, the reserves have declined to a level where they are barely enough to cover imports for two months. He stressed that South Africa remained resolved to honour its debt commitments included in the standby net of \$300 million a year through to 1990-91. But the \$11 billion debt, which fell outside the net, was being discussed with overseas banks, he says.

At the end of July, South Africa's gold and currency reserves stood at just under \$2.3 billion, a 28 per cent drop from the \$3.17 billion at the end of 1987.

The government's answer has been to impose a series of savage measures, including an 18 per cent increase in the price of petrol, tighter hire purchase terms and import tariff increases of up to 60 per cent.

## COMPANY BRIEFS

**JOS HOLDINGS (Ft)**  
Pre-tax: n/a  
NAV: 199.8 (242.0p)  
Div: 3.2 mkg 4.25p

**PENNINE OPTICAL (Ft)**  
Pre-tax: £0.09 (£0.05m)  
EPS: 2.7 (1.5p)  
Div: nil

**PROPERTY TRUST (Ft)**  
Loss: £0.14 (£0.89m)  
EPS: 0.02 (0.28p)  
Div: nil

Capitalization issue of ordinary shares of 1 for every 4 held by members on register at close of business on 30/9/88

No interim dividend will be paid as it is company's present policy to retain funds to assist in growth of business.

Turnover £3.38 (£0.88m). The company has entered into conditional agreements for substantial acquisitions.

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## Marley has room for improvement

When George Russell took over as chief executive of Marley two years ago, he vowed to make its assets work more effectively.

By selling off peripheral activities and sharpening up much of the remainder, he has done a lot to improve the quality of Marley's earnings.

The core building materials operation now accounts for 83 per cent of sales compared to 60 per cent in 1986, while the importance of other activities has fallen from 32 per cent to 5 per cent.

Like many building materials groups, Marley has also identified substantial opportunities in these times of rising land prices, of selling surplus land holdings.

Yesterday's results contained the first notable profits from this source — £8.6 million compared to £1.2 million last time — 87 per cent of which came from the sale of a single site. Remaining properties, in the books at £28 million, could generate profits of between £7 million and £10 million a year for the next decade.

Although Marley's management of these disposals is thoroughly professional, investors in the group are looking for expertise in the building materials — not property — market.

Conditions in Britain have been ideal for groups like Marley: demand is strong and the weather has been clement. Against this background,

however, Marley's 25 per cent increase after property sales may look no more than average compared to the growth some of its competitors are expected to report over the next few weeks. Marley should be doing better from bricks, plastics and concrete products.

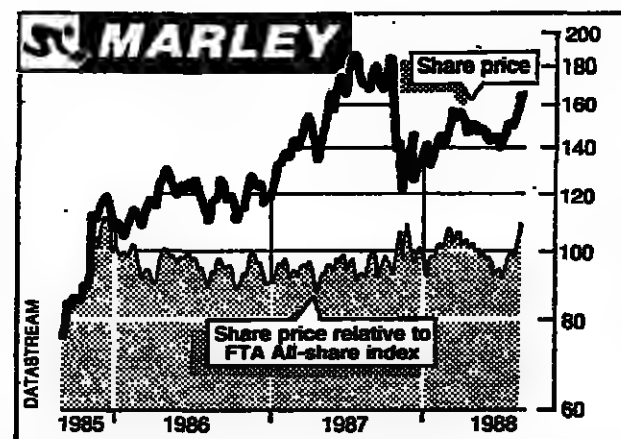
The overseas results are frankly disappointing — down 35 per cent — even bearing in mind the slowdown in the US and a £1.3 million negative impact from currency fluctuations.

The motor components operation has also suffered from the Ford strike which knocked £0.5 million off interim profits. Investors will have to wait a while longer to see the exciting prospects sketched out for this business. Marley aims to take its market share up from 11 per cent to 20 per cent in three years.

There is no firm evidence as yet of a predator, but there has been strong institutional buying behind the high volumes. Without a bid the shares seem fully rated on a prospective P/E of 10 times on pre-tax profits of about £70 million.

## Weir Group

The economic upsurge has reached fully into the capital goods business, and that makes life sweet for Weir, the pumps and engineering group. For the first six months of July 1, pre-tax profits are up 26 per cent to £7.8 million and



earnings 23 per cent ahead at 10.2p per share, adjusting for the new accounting treatment of finance leases which knocks £86,000 pre-tax off last year's figure.

There is more evidence of buoyancy in the order books. During the first six months, £95 million worth were taken, compared with last year's annual sales of £137 million. This is particularly impressive when one of Weir Group's main markets, the oil industry, is still in the doldrums.

With turnover of £87 million in the first half, Mr Ron Garriek, the chief executive, should have little trouble delivering the £170 million turnover and £17 million profit the market had already pencilled in for 1988 as a whole.

The shares have already

come up 20p to 249p since the annual report less than two months ago, and now probably sell at around 11 times prospective earnings.

The dividend has also come in for welcome expansion. For the first half, it is up 80 per cent to 2.25p net. Weir is keeping its options open by saying this is partly to reduce the disparity between interim and final. But it would be disappointing if last year's 4.5p total was not raised by at least a third, giving a yield of 3.2 per cent.

That would not be an enticing rating for a capital goods group near the top of a boom. But under present management, Weir has had an outstanding five-year record. It continues to do sensible things. The purchase of the

Mather & Platt pump business and, recently, the rights to WH Allen pumps have given the group a strong British market position and exporting base.

The merger of its turbo-drilling business with Alstom (with a right to full buyout) comes when the oil business is taken a strategic stake in neighbour Howden and has a general air of confident enterprise.

The shares still look sound value.

## Queens

## Moat Houses

Queens Moat Houses may like to say that when it made a series of hotel acquisitions in continental Europe last October, it was done with at least half an eye on 1992.

But the bald fact is that hotel prices have moved out of sight in Britain for the first time since the 1960s, it now cheaper on the whole to build new hotels than to acquire them.

Even on the continent, the story is the same. Whereas Queens Moat was able to acquire its West German hotels less than a year ago at an average cost of between £47,000 and £50,000 a bedroom, prices have now zoomed up to between £75,000 and £100,000 a bedroom.

In Britain, Queens Moat

may be prepared to pay up to £100,000 a room in the south of England, but for the very few that are available in reasonable condition, the competition is fierce.

Hence the group's building programme, accompanied by a major refurbishment of all its hotels. This year, it is budgeting to spend around £8 million on the seven new hotels it has in progress, and between £35 million and £40 million on its existing properties, more than double last year's amount.

In addition to new carpets and curtains, refurbished properties will also have extensions built for conference and banqueting facilities to cater predominantly for the business user.

Queens Moat's optimistic spending programme is vindicated by the surge in hotel occupancy rates. This year, it has seen them rise from 62 per cent to 65 per cent. Tariffs are up 9 per cent. Food and beverage prices have not increased by much, but turnover benefits from the higher volume in bedrooms.

Weekend occupancy remains low, but the group is promoting the use of its function rooms for weddings, parties and dinner dances.

For the year as a whole, analysts are looking for profits in the £38 million to £42 million range. The prospective multiple is 14.6, which looks about right.

## Quick-fit workshops win on car repairs

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Retail Affairs  
Correspondent

Motorists who do most of their own repairs give up when it comes to fitting tyres and exhausts and turn to quick-fit centres, says a new survey on the British car parts market.

One in three motorists questioned by Euromonitor, the market research group, had had tyres changed in the past year. More than one in four had had an exhaust installed in the same period.

Professional maintenance outlets receive little praise for price or value for money, but the survey reveals that most motorists are satisfied with the performance of the outlet they use. Friendliness is an important factor with women customers.

Few motorists, if any, carry out all their own servicing work. And most motorists who do their own work undertake it to save on costs.

They also tend to be younger, male and of a lower social class than company car drivers who were 45.6, between 35 and 44 years old and drive an average of 13,300 miles a year in a Ford or Vauxhall fleet model, says Euromonitor, which surveyed 953 motorists.

Although company car drivers make some repairs for convenience, the group of car owners who perform virtually no DIY repairs includes many women. However, if this group decides to get its hands oily, it is to change plugs, oil and light bulbs.

The next most popular activities include the replacement of filters and brake parts — the elements of basic servicing, says Euromonitor. Only 14 per cent of motorists surveyed carried out a full service in the last year.

Independent high street shops score as the most likely place to buy parts, while independent repair shops have the edge over main dealerships when it comes to professional repairs.

The exception is with new cars. They are maintained under warranty or at the dealership of purchase.

Car Servicing and Repairs: Euromonitor, 87-89 Turnmill St, London EC1M 5QU. Telephone (01) 608 3149

## Property and land sales boost Hutchison Whampoa to £115m

From Stephen Leather  
Hong Kong  
Correspondent

Mr Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong businessman, yesterday revealed increased profits for Hutchison Whampoa and Cheung Kong, his two flagship companies.

Profits of Hutchison Whampoa, which is involved in trading, hotels, retailing and container terminals, rose by 10.8 per cent to HK\$1,524 million (£115 million) in the first six months of 1988.

The profits include an extraordinary item of HK\$603 million, mostly profits from the sale of land and property, but Mr Li said: "The group's businesses continue to perform well and its cash flow remains strong."

The firm is to increase its interim dividend from 10.6 cents a share to 13 cents.

His Cheung Kong property empire made interim after-tax profits up 27.5 per cent to HK\$1,081 million and a 36 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 8 cents a share, well above analysts' expectations.

Mr Li said he was "cautiously optimistic" about the property market for the current year though there had been a slow down in sales in the past few months.

"This is probably healthy



Cautiously optimistic about property market: Li Ka-shing

for the market's long-term development. The present situation is basically sound and property prices are still at affordable levels," he said.

Mr Li is now the biggest property developer in the Crown Colony. His Hutchison Whampoa flagships and its 62 per cent-owned investment vehicle Cavendish International this year arranged a HK\$1.8 billion loan facility to help fund a property develop-

ment on the south side of Hong Kong island which will not be finished until 1995, two years before the Colony is handed back to China.

His AS Watson chemists shops, part of the Hutchison empire, has 210 outlets and has expanded into Taiwan, Macau and Singapore.

Mr Li's hotels — the Hong Kong Sheraton and the Hilton, both through Cavendish — had a successful year, he

said, on the back of a tourist boom.

His businesses also include cellular mobile telephones and paging ship repairing, China trade, and engineering.

Mr Li is reckoned to have arranged to invest about HK\$27 billion in the Colony over the past year but he has been just as active overseas. In December 1986 he paid HK\$2.7 billion for a 43 per cent stake in Husky Oil, a Canadian oil company, and last year he bought a 4.9 per cent holding in Cable and Wireless. He has a near 10 per cent holding in Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce worth about HK\$2 billion and property in the United States worth some US\$20 million (£11.91 million). He also has a HK\$94 million stake in Cluff Oil, the British oil company.

He has also paid C\$320 million (£155 million) for the development rights to the Expo '87 site, in Vancouver, through a consortium.

Yesterday Mr Li said Husky is to take over Canterra Energy, a Canadian firm. "This will bring to Husky top quality Western Canadian light oil and gas reserves and a leading position in the sulphur business, which will improve Husky's overall balance as a leading Canadian energy producer," he said.

He said that the metal pipe couplings and fittings business, Viking Johnson, which accounts for 35 per cent of turnover, enjoyed strong demand from the water industry. It had also developed a successful new range of pipe couplings for the water industry.

He added that the Stewarts & Lloyds Plastics subsidiary, which accounts for another 35 per cent of turnover, also had a buoyant year. "Demand from the gas industry continued to increase and we are making inroads into the water industry. Polythene pipe is the preferred material in the gas industry where it is replacing iron and to a lesser extent steel."

## Scantronic buys US firm for £5m

By Wolfgang Münch

Scantronic Holdings, the acquisitive producer of alarm systems, yesterday announced the purchase of the American Acron Corporation in a cash deal worth £8.75 million (£5.2 million).

The deal follows a number of other recent acquisitions by Scantronic in the same sector. Last week, Scantronic and Automated Security Holdings took a 40 per cent stake in the distributor, Gardiner Group.

Scantronic said yesterday it hoped to achieve lower component and raw material costs through the increased size and negotiating power of the combined business.

In the year ended February, Acron Corporation, based in

Lakewood, New Jersey, made a pre-tax profit of \$1.44 million on sales of \$7.17 million, which compares with Scantronic's results of £2.05 million pre-tax profits on sales of £16.07 million in the year ended March.

The market for intruder alarms is growing by between 15 and 20 per cent a year. In the UK, Scantronic claims to have 52 per cent of the market.

The Acron deal will be financed by a rights issue of 9.8 million new convertible preference shares, at 100p per share, on a 7-for-25 (ordinary shares) or 7-for-375 (convertible preference shares) basis.

Scantronic's shares yesterday fell from 116p to 110p.

## Growth in tourism lifts Cathay airline

From Our Correspondent, Hong Kong

Cathay Pacific, the Hong Kong airline, yesterday announced after-tax profits up 23.2 per cent to HK\$1,021 million (£77 million) for the six months ended June.

The Colony's flag carrier has benefited from a tourist boom on the back of a weak local currency which has resulted in it flying almost three million passengers in the first six months of this year, 20 per cent more than during the same period in 1987.

Cargo revenues increased by almost 25 per cent.

"The growth in both air passenger and cargo markets, particularly within the Asian region, continues with little sign of abatement," said Mr

David Gledhill, the chairman. The interim dividend is being raised from 7.5 cents a share to 9 cents.

The Hong Kong dollar is linked to the US currency which has had a tough time despite some recent strengthening. Most of Cathay's earnings are in foreign currencies and the weak local dollar also helped exports.

During the six months the airline bought two Tristars and in July it brought a third extended upper-deck Boeing 747 into service. Two more Tristars have been ordered and by the end of this year, Cathay Pacific will have 30 aircraft in the air, 16 of which will be jumbo jets.

## Electrolux up 20% at half time

Stockholm (Reuters) — Electrolux, the electrical appliance group, reported that its restructuring after a rapid expansion was now paying off, resulting in a 20 per cent increase in profits in the first half of this year. Profits, after financial items, rose to 1.81 billion kronor (£165 million) on a turnover of 36.07 billion kronor.

Electrolux said: "Demand in the group's main markets continued to be good during the period, with the exception of a downward trend in the US market. Favourable trends were also reported for group operations in South America and the Far East."

Profits have been affected in recent years by the Electrolux policy of buying struggling companies and then rationalizing and restructuring them. Prime candidates were Italy's Zanussi and the US White Consolidated Industries. The policy has shown an 18 per cent increase in profits in 1987 to 3.06 billion kronor, while the latest 20 per cent profit rise was in line with the more optimistic of analysts' forecasts.

Meanwhile, Electrolux has asked permission from the Barcelona stock exchange to make a public offer for all available shares in Unidat Hermetica, a Spanish company. The offer values the company at 5.51 billion pesetas (£26.2 million). Unidat manufactures compressors for the white goods industry and other sectors.



Benson: seeking harmony

## LDDC report emphasizes social and community benefits of development

## Jobs up by a third in reborn Docklands

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

The number of jobs in the London Docklands has risen by just over a third to 36,385 in the wake of the £4.4 billion private sector investment in the development area since 1981.

The Docklands turnaround — it was in 1983 that the creation of jobs finally began to exceed jobs lost — is detailed in the London Docklands Development Corporation's annual report and accounts for the year to March.

Before the Docklands developments began the number of jobs had been falling steadily, plunging the greatest depths in 1983, when only an estimated 25,000 jobs were

available in the area. Since the positive balance was struck in 1985, the situation has substantially improved, the report says.

Job creation became crucial after the corporation ran into criticism for not doing enough for the original Docklands communities.

However, there has been an increasing emphasis over the past year on the social and community aspects of regeneration, says Sir Christopher Benson, chairman of the LDDC, in his report.

"We believe it is vital that the corporation plays a major role in helping the old Docklands communities to feel part of the new developments that have sprung up during the past few years, and this is where we are now directing

much of our energies," he says. "As the changes take place it is essential to integrate the old and new, to give the best of both."

But he admits that achieving harmony between old and new residents is "not an easy task."

Development land disposal in many areas is nearing completion, Sir Christopher says, and the final thrust must be in the provision of amenities and environmental treatment to provide lasting improvement to the lives of those living and working in the area.

Developers were being told to look to the needs of local communities when drawing up plans.

An instance of the community gaining from dev-

elopment is expected to be given by the Olympia and York project at Canary Wharf, which is intended to provide a minimum of 2,000 local jobs as well as training in the skills that will be needed.

The report notes that car parking was now becoming a contentious matter, and the LDDC is studying ways of providing more parking, particularly on the Isle of Dogs.

The ratio of private to public investment through government grant is now estimated at 10 to one. Since 1981, 5.2 million sq ft of commercial and industrial floor space had been completed, and a further 5.9 million square feet is under construction. So far, 8,782 homes have been built, and work has begun on a further 6,218.



# Jourdan sells Mary Quant and reveals investigation

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

Thomas Jourdan, the consumer products group which makes trousseau presses to hi-fi cabinets, has severed its links with Mary Quant after 17 years.

But as it announced the £3 million sale of the cosmetics royalties company, which bore the fashion designer's name, it also revealed that five directors have left Jourdan's nursery products subsidiary after a detailed financial investigation.

Alarm bells sounded when Rochingham Babyfairs' finance director resigned on April 11, taking compensation worth £10,000 awarded by the managing director.

Mr Keith Whitten, the Jourdan chairman, said that the group started a routine investigation which, after two stocktakes in April and June, revealed substantial financial irregularities relating to stock

and debtors in 1987. "The managing director was dismissed and three other directors and managers of Rochingham have since left. A new finance director has been appointed."

"It is apparent that Rochingham did not trade as profitably as was stated in 1987 and has incurred a trading loss in certain of its activities of £127,000 in the first six months of 1988," said Mr Whitten.

Further action may be taken on professional advice, he added.

Mr Whitten said that Rochingham customers, who include Boots and Mothercare, have been sympathetic.

Rochingham would be returned to profitability as soon as possible, said Mr Whitten.

The mattress division in particular is enjoying considerable success with its new

combustion modified foam safety mattress which is the market leader. Adjustments to the 1987 accounts will be made at the year end."

Group pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 rose by 49 per cent to £935,000 compared with £627,000 last year. Turnover went from £7 million to £12.7 million in the same period and there is an 11 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 1.5p. The shares gained 12p to 140p.

Knightbridge Design, the Mary Quant income vehicle which contributed profits of £247,000 in 1987, has been sold for £2.94 million cash to Club Cosmetics, a Japanese cosmetics manufacturer.

Japan is the mainstay of sales for the fashion designer's branded hosiery, make-up and footwear products.

The upmarket Woodstock kitchen furniture subsidiary,

which sells installations retailing from £15,000 to £60,000, has a good order book until Christmas and is developing its range of free-standing furniture.

Corby, the heated trouser press subsidiary, is trying to win a more youthful market. Mr Whitten said the company had gained good results through *The Sharper Image*, an American catalogue targeted at young men. The group hopes to install presses in American hotels.

The cosmetic brush division has won fewer orders and Far East competition is keen.

Unerman Holdings, a new acquisition, has benefited from the upsurge in the fortunes of the furniture industry and Suncrest Surrounds has overcome its production problems of last year.

## Yard is likely buyer of NEL

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The National Engineering Laboratory (NEL), put up for sale by the Government in June, looks likely to go to Yard, a Glasgow engineering services company.

A Yard proposal which is being discussed closely involves the management and staff of NEL, said the Department of Trade and Industry. One of nine bids for NEL was a management buyout, with other staff involvement, led by the NEL director, Dr Donald Bell.

A firm conclusion in favour of Yard, part of the CAP-PPP group ranging from financial services to computer software, will depend on satisfactory terms being agreed, the DTI said.

NEL has an annual cost base of £21 million and employs 620, all based at East Kilbride where the extensive laboratory and other facilities cover about 70 acres.

The DTI said it had concluded that proposals involving a combination of Yard and the current management and staff appeared the most promising route for privatising NEL. The next phase of discussions would concentrate on developing this approach.

The DTI added: "Detailed planning for the future of NEL will need to be considered fully. The discussions will take account of the need to focus NEL's efforts and resources as closely as possible on industry's needs and the attainment of full economic viability."

It was aiming at an early agreement to minimize uncertainty for staff, customers and suppliers, the DTI added.

NEL provides a range of services to engineering industries and carries out research in the various sectors of mechanical engineering science. About half its staff are scientists and other technical qualified staff.

It tests, among other things, for flow measurement to British standards. It has also done much work on emerging technologies — one being the use of reinforced plastics in structural components. Ceramics and casting technology are other new areas being investigated.

Yard has a staff of about 760 and provides services in many fields of engineering as well as computer systems and software. Its CAP parent recently merged with Sema-Metra, the French consultants.

## COMMENT

# Sharks are gathering in investment trust waters

No doubt Arthur Scargill is pleased at the sight of the City's largest investment trust group squirming under the attentions of his industry's pension funds. Certainly, Touche Remnant itself has plenty to be worried about.

The British Coal Pension Funds' bid should prove attractive enough to the shareholders of Touche Remnant Industrial & General. They are being offered a mere 8 per cent discount to the net assets underlying TRIG shares — roughly half as much as the discount on Tuesday and far less than the 20 per cent below net asset value at which most general investment trusts trade.

At the same time, the coal industry pension funds are keeping something for themselves. If the bid is successful, they receive assets worth £610 million for an outlay of only £560 million.

The bid only underlines the plight of the TR group, riddled with political infighting and a succession of bids for its funds. TR has weakened itself by successive boardroom squabbles that led to the departure of Peter Gray last year, originally brought in from Crown Agents to give the group more cohesion and direction.

Only the group's ownership structure seems relatively secure. TRIG is the largest shareholder in TR Holdings with a 27 per cent stake, worth about £10 million. It is inconceivable that TRH will

allow the coal pension funds to hold on to this. The rest of TRH is owned by the other investment trusts which automatically become entitled to buy TRIG's holding as soon as any single shareholder owns more than 25 per cent of TRIG. This is almost certainly what will happen if the bid succeeds, leaving Liberty Mutual Insurance's 15 per cent stake in TRH as the only outside shareholding.

But it is equally unlikely that the pension funds will leave TRH to carry on managing TRIG. In its previous purchase of an investment trust, Drayton Premier, the pension funds took the management under their own wing. If they do the same this time, TR stands to lose one third of its total investment trust assets and more than 17 per cent of the group's total £3.5 billion of funds under management.

Unless, of course, the pension funds offer some sort of compromise to sweeten the bid for TRIG's management.

The bid also emphasizes the attractions of buying investment trusts in general. Constructing bid-proof share structures has proved an extremely complex business and most trusts remain highly vulnerable. As one analyst put it: "Once there's blood in the water, the sharks always gather." There is plenty of blood around TR just at the moment and it is seeping into the water around the whole investment trust sector.

## Credit controls still in play

Throughout this summer's long and occasionally overheated debate on overheating, the Government has maintained the line that one thing that is not under consideration is the re-introduction of credit controls. The Chancellor has stressed the relatively minor contribution of consumer credit to total personal sector debt, while controls have been dismissed on both ideological and technical grounds.

The August National Institute Review, which has as its main recommendation a partial reversal of recent cuts in direct taxation — on present form about as likely as Nigel Lawson winning the 100 metres in the Seoul Olympics — examines the question of credit controls in detail.

The conclusion, by former Treasury economist Jon Shields, is that while controls would have to be in a different form to those prevailing in the 1960s and 1970s, some form of direct restraint on credit remains possible and in some cases could be preferable to the indefinite raising of interest rates.

The Treasury's argument that only a small proportion of personal debt can be regarded as consumer credit, in the sense of borrowing on Access or Barclaycard or hire purchase loans is, of course, something of a red herring. If it is easier and cheaper for people to obtain credit via mortgages they will do so.

With more than 80 per cent of new

borrowing by households secured against property, any new controls would have to operate mainly in this area. Mr Shields suggests three possibilities — ceilings on the proportion of the value of a property that can be borrowed, limits on repayment periods and taxation, either of new loans, or of interest payments.

All three have important drawbacks. The ceiling would have to be applied at a level which would cover those people who are currently most highly geared in the housing market, leaving a considerable slack to be taken up by the rest. Limiting repayment periods could have a devastating effect on first-time buyers.

Taxing new loans would be less distorting than quantitative controls although it might also be less effective, given the fairly low response of consumer borrowing to the cost of that borrowing. Even so, it is clear that a determined government could, however imperfectly, exert some restraining effect on credit through controls or taxation.

The fact that this Government is highly unlikely to do so will add to the belief that base rates have further to rise. The authorities are keen to allow that 3.5 point rise in base rates since early June time to work through. A continuation of yesterday's weakness of sterling, perhaps in response to today's all-important trade figures, may not give them the luxury of doing so.

## Half-time £34m for Marley

By Alexandra Jackson

Property profits and a strong domestic market pushed pre-tax profits at Marley, the building materials company, up from £25.1 million to £34.2 million in the six months to end-June. Mr George Russell, the chief executive, said he expected 1988 to be a record year.

The market was prepared for the substantial uplift in property profits from £1.2 million to £8.6 million, as Marley's sale of a 28-acre site at Poole, Dorset, in January, was announced in the spring.

An interim dividend of 8.5p was declared, up from 6.7p.

Group sales were maintained at £181 million, but masked a rise in British sales from £169.2 million to £204.7 million and an overseas drop from £111.9 million to £76.6 million. Some £40 million sales lost after disposals were made up by strong growth from building materials.

Market sources say that up to 10 per cent of Marley's equity has changed hands in the last six weeks. Mr Russell said nothing had been unearthed on the share register so far. Institutional interest in Marley is strong, after presentations last month about the property portfolio.

Mr Russell said the Aisher family, which built up Marley and retains a 10 per cent shareholding, confirmed last week its support for the



Profits pipeline: George Russell in the City yesterday, after announcing Marley's results (Photograph: James Morgan)

management. "They have not been approached for their stake," he said.

He acknowledged the performance from the Californian roof tile operation was disappointing. Another US

business, General Shale, suffered lower profits, compared with a very strong first half in 1987, while in South Africa, raw material price movements pushed the plastics business into loss.

## Legal help for ICA members

By Carol Ferguson

Chartered accountants who are under pressure from their employers to act in a way which conflicts with their professional ethics will be entitled to free legal advice in future.

A scheme to help them has been launched by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Industrial and commercial members will be given up to two-and-a-half hours of legal advice by a solicitor from a panel of 50 law firms, appointed and paid for by the institute.

The problems which the scheme is designed to cater for are those arising from cases where firms continue to trade while insolvent, directors channelling commission to overseas bank accounts, or attempting to defraud creditors or the authorities.

The institute said yesterday that it is an important contribution to its efforts to combat fraud and dishonesty in business and commercial life.

"Experience has shown that specialist legal advice is sometimes necessary to protect the accountant's position," the institute said.

## RKF announces £7.3m deal for printer Heron

By Wolfgang Münch

RKF, the building services conglomerate headed by Mr Bob Francis, is buying Heron, an Essex-based printer of technical journals and sales promotion literature, in a £7.3 million share and cash deal.

Yesterday's announcement followed the publication of RKF's interim results, which saw pre-tax profits soar 600 per cent to £1.53 million in the six months ended June.

RKF moved into printing in December last year through the acquisition of Grange Press.

Grange contributed 26 per cent to the group's turnover

and 35 per cent of operating profits.

In 1987, Heron achieved pre-tax profits of £463,000 on sales of £9.5 million. The net asset value is £5.5 million, which includes investment property in central London worth about £4 million.

RKF has also announced the acquisition of Meadowbrook Developments, which owns 50 per cent of the Francis Holmes housing joint venture, for an initial consideration of around £900,000.

RKF announced an interim dividend of 1.125p against 0.73p last year.

## ECGD resumes cover on credit for Brazil

By Colin Narbrough

The Export Credits Guarantee Department, Britain's official credit insurer, yesterday signalled recognition of Brazil's efforts to improve its economy by resuming cover on medium-term credit for the debt-strapped Latin American country after a five-year break.

At the same time, it underlined the export potential this offered. Mr Alan Clark, the Trade Minister, said: "There are great export opportunities for UK businessmen in this important and growing market."

He welcomed the recent agreements Brazil had reached

with the International Monetary Fund and with other government and commercial creditors.

It was Brazil's foreign payments difficulties which caused the ECGD to suspend cover for the country in September 1983. Cover was maintained throughout on short-term loans of up to 180 days. This was extended to 12 months in January.

In 1982, the last full year when ECGD medium-term cover was available, the department backed some £132 million worth of British exports to Brazil.

## Seeing stars at Orion

The four individuals axed in a "rationalization" of Orion Royal Bank's bond division — the details of which were given in yesterday's *City Diary* — claim to have been the innocent victims of political infighting between Orion, the Royal Bank of Canada — Orion's parent — and Dominion Securities, the Canadian securities house due to have its London operations merged with Orion on October 1. Indeed, their departures seem to have unleashed a mire of human misery caused by a management decision which, at best, he described as confused. All three of the redundant traders — the fourth individual was ex-IMF and World Bank economist Kate Lebeal-Gimblett — claim that they were actually trading profitably on the day that they departed. Lebeal-Gimblett, I hear, was even offered a job as the senior economist at Chase Securities just nine weeks ago and turned it down only after being persuaded to stay by Barry Conway, at present managing director of Dominion and soon to become joint managing director of the merged London firm.

American Mike Roche had been transferred from the New York office of Orion just five months ago, and Kim Wall had similarly been transferred from Australia. Both Roche and Wall had been obliged to buy homes here, as Orion Royal Bank offers employees subsidies on mortgages, but not rents.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Could be anybody . . .

Few people in the Square Mile can fail to recognize the Government Broker — otherwise known as Bank of England employee Nigel Althaus — resplendent, as ever, in his large black top hat. Or so one would have thought. . . . Althaus, in full traditional dress, was yesterday refused admission to the floor of the Stock Exchange where he had

intended to attend to some gift options business. One of the vigilant "waiters", employed to ensure that only Stock Exchange members and other authorized personnel set foot on the hallowed floor, named Althaus away because he was not wearing the right badge. "One can only assume that it must have been a new waiter," the Bank says.

### Lance chance

Bert Lance, who was budget director in the administration of former US President Jimmy Carter, is, I hear, on the brink of becoming a senior executive at the Leadenhall Street office of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. Agha Hasan Abedi, BCCI's president, who under-

went a heart transplant operation last March, has not yet fully recovered, and Lance is expected to assume some of the responsibilities currently being handled by BCCI's chief executive, Swaleh Naqvi. Abedi is a close personal friend of Carter — the two men flew to Pakistan together last year in Abedi's private aircraft and were entertained in Islamabad by the late President Zia.



"And remember, no imports"

### Tripped up

Some of the agony between the tax man and company car users could be about to vanish. An American accountant has invented a device which automatically records mileage on a computer. The computer hooks up to a car's drive-shaft, records mileage details for up to 50 trips, and even makes a printout of the readings. It is activated simply by pressing a start button at the beginning of each trip. The cost is also impressive — the basic device sells for about \$4.

## Tanks for a memory

Michael Cole, the BBC's Royal correspondent who leaves soon to become media director for House of Fraser Holdings, tells me that yesterday's report of his £85,000 salary was, unfortunately, exaggerated. I must have mistaken him for one of those chat show hosts whose agents talk in telephone numbers. Meanwhile, a tiny part (forgive the pun) of his new job will be to contain the more extreme assertions of Lornho chief executive Tiny Rowland. But as a former war correspondent, Cole should be well able to cope. It will, in any case, not be the first time their paths have crossed. Cole recalls an acrimonious House of Fraser egn in the early 1980s when Professor Roland Smith made the immortal statement to Rowland: "Get your tanks off my lawn." When the meeting was over, Cole asked the gentlemen in question to shake hands, for the benefit of his BBC News cameras. The professor apparently replied: "If I shook hands with him I would have to count my fingers," whereupon Tiny responded: "You would."

Philip Morris, the American tobacco company, is sponsoring, to the tune of \$2.5 million (£1.5 million), the US attempt to hold on to the America's Cup. Meanwhile, Dennis Comer, who won the Cup for America, has just accepted an invitation to become the honorary chairman of the San Diego chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Carol Leonard

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At the end of four years, the final endowment policy matures to provide the return of your original investment in full together with your final income payment.

### THE TAX POSITION

If you're a basic rate taxpayer, you will have no liability to tax on the income payments nor on the repayment of your original investment. Higher rate taxpayers will be liable to pay tax at an effective rate of 20% of the net income. The income from the Bond may affect a Bondholder's Age Allowance, if applicable. If you are in any doubt about your tax position, you should seek professional advice.

The Company's Life Fund is subject to income tax.

\*9% and 9.25% net are equivalent to 12% gross and 12.3% gross respectively.

### ACCESS TO CAPITAL

The maximum benefit will be derived only if your Bond is held for the full four years. If you need access to capital in an emergency, the pure endowment policies may be surrendered at any time and the table below gives examples of cash values per £1,000 of the original investment. The amounts shown are not guaranteed.

Age at entry	Original Investment £2,000 to £9,999: at end of year			£10,000 or over: at end of year		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
50	£881	£891	£903	£888	£897	£908
60	£853	£871	£892	£881	£877	£896
70	£788	£820	£883	£794	£826	£867

Deductions for charges and expenses are not made evenly over the four year period and are higher in the early years.

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Simply complete the Application Form and send it with your cheque to the address shown below. If you would like to receive a copy of the Application Form or if you wish to see a copy of the Policy, please ask us. If you would like more information, please use our telephone hotline — 01-680-7194.

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Name is full  
Address

Date of Birth Age Sex  
DECLARATION  
I declare that:  
a) I am over 18 years of age  
b) I am resident in the United Kingdom

I hereby appoint the Treasurer of American Life Insurance Company (U.K.) to act as my Attorney and, on my behalf:

a) receive from the Company the maturity proceeds of the pure endowment policies applied for  
b) pay to the Company the annual premiums due under the term assurance policy as they become payable and  
c) arrange for the balance of the maturity proceeds of the pure endowment policies to be paid to me.

I hereby undertake to ratify everything that my said Attorney shall do or purport to do under this appointment although such appointment is revocable by me at any time by service of written notice of revocation upon my said Attorney.

Signature Date  
**AMERICAN LIFE**  
2-8 Aylmer Road, Croydon CR9 2LA







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100	Carroll	270	●	153	23

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80	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
81	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
82	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
83	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
84	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
85	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
86	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
87	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
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10	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
11	Howard Stern	76.5	85	-	12	16	22.3
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97	Income	114	117	-1	71	81	166	
98	Operating (EBIT)	114	117	-1	71	81	166	
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155	EBIT	114	117	-1	71	81	166	

● Ex dividend ● Ex alt b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment: k Pre-merger figure... ● Forecast earnings ● Ex other r Ex rights ● Ex scmp or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.











## GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

August 25, 1988

Some labour turnover is welcomed by employers, and the departure of certain employees may bring a welcome sigh of relief. But most wastage is not good, particularly that of specialists in a tight labour market, and particularly of people perceived as "good". So, when is labour turnover a problem?

More and more employers are beginning to ask themselves why such staff are leaving and how their loss can be prevented. In order to answer these questions, an employer needs to know about recent and current turnover.

First, who is leaving? Is it people with a particular length of service, or from a narrow age group? Are there obvious patterns by gender or race, by qualification, by grade, by department or function or specialism? What about location or site? The answers to these questions help to pinpoint the high-risk groups, enabling policies to be targeted to relevant areas of action.

Second, the employer needs to find out why the high-risk people are leaving, and why their colleagues are not leaving. How detailed, or accurate, is information gathered on why people leave? Has this information been collected in a reliable way?

Third, employers need to keep up to date with the current state of the labour market and with pay and conditions of competitors.

Armed with this information, employers will know when labour turnover is a problem. **WHO ARE THE PROBLEMS?** Recent research at the Institute of Manpower Studies (IMS Report No 145, *Retaining Specialists*) found a variety of specialists of

whom there is a shortage. These have been defined as "key employees with valuable skills, for whom the labour market is keen. They need not necessarily be staff in senior positions in the main career streams".

Specialists hardest to retain include information technologists, particularly computer programmers and systems analysts; accountants of all kinds, particularly in the public and service sectors; all kinds of engineers, especially those with management capability; and architectural, medical and legal specialists. Among others, scientists, technicians and economists have also been identified as problems when it comes to retention. The shortages hold across all sectors but affect some, particularly the public sector and expanding sectors such as finance and "energy production", more than others.

Where do these specialists come from? There are a variety of sources, including:

- Graduate intake, trained in-house by the organization;
- Recruitment campaigns, resulting in direct entry of trained and experienced people from competitors and sometimes as re-recruits;
- Through supporting school-leavers at further education colleges, or in-house training programmes; or
- Through in-house retraining programmes for other staff, or from external retraining programmes such as those run by the Training Commission—for example, the Manpower Services Commission's TOPS courses.

Where do these specialists go? The main destinations of "specialist" leavers are:

Jill Yeates, a manpower expert, looks at the problem of losing key staff



## Keep your specialists and keep down the bills

- More highly paid jobs in competitor organizations;
- Organizations offering more attractive career development;
- Different location—moving with a spouse for example, or going "home" or to London;
- Setting up their own businesses.

Why do they leave? IMS research and advisory experience shows that they usually leave for one or more of the following reasons:

- More pay or better conditions;
- To develop their own careers;
- To do more interesting or more fulfilling work;
- Better training;
- Technical advancement—to be working nearer the forefront of technological development;
- To work for an organization with a more satisfying image;
- For an easier travel-to-work pattern;
- To find a more suitable immediate manager.

However, it is important for every employer to find out why its own specialists are leaving. Finding out is not easy for three main reasons.

First, people who have made a decision tend to rationalize their

reasons for having done so. Second, there are things it is better not to say politically, even in the case of leaving the organization. Third, although it is commonly assumed that people leave for more pay, and true that few people actually leave for a lower salary, pay may be seen as a "legitimate" reason to give for changing jobs. In fact, few people leave only for more money. Employers who keep their staff more effectively are not necessarily the highest payers. Indeed, where money is thrown at the problem of turnover, wastage tends to reduce for a couple of months and then start to creep back up again.

**SOLUTIONS: HOW TO RETAIN SPECIALISTS.** Organizations will always have some wastage. For example, there will be retirements, deaths, ill-health retirements, those dismissed on grounds of misconduct or lack of capability or efficiency, and those who leave as a result of maternity or geographical relocation of the organization. There will also be those who leave after a short time because the job or organization does not suit them, however good the recruitment process. There

will also be some who leave because they get a better offer at the time.

But to keep those in high-risk categories who may otherwise leave, organizations have enjoyed success with the following solutions, either individually or as part of a package:

**Pay.** Extra pay is usually given where necessary to be competitive in the form of market supplements, bonuses, overtime or performance-based pay.

**Conditions.** Benefits such as mortgage and loan subsidies and company cars can be given to target groups of individuals.

**Contracts.** Imaginative contracts can offer more attractive terms of employment temporarily without distorting establishments or grading scales.

**Work content.** Structural changes allow job enrichment at all levels, and a higher proportion of research and development work is often attractive to specialists.

**Training.** Specialists are less inclined to stay with an organization that does not help them to improve and update their skills.

**Career development.** Employees who can see clearly where they are

heading in career terms may prefer security to extra money.

**Company image.** Many employees apparently like working for a company that has a good-quality image, is a leader in its field and is known for producing a good product and being a good employer.

It appears that once pay and conditions are competitive, work content, training, career development and company image all become very important parts of any package designed to retain specialists.

**THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOLUTIONS.** Policy decisions to introduce measures to retain staff obviously have implications in terms of costs, trade union reactions, other employees' reactions, the training programme and the labour market.

The main costs are those of the time spent on career management for small numbers of people, and also of extra payments, training, restructuring and contracting work out. However, these are found to be cheaper than the costs of replacement.

Trade unions are generally not consulted about one-off solutions

to retain specialists. Where they are, the reaction is usually no more than one of verbal disagreement. Other employees tend to feel less valued by an organization that is treating some individuals as special. This often leads to antagonism, which has a negative influence on workplace morale and the quality of work. However, antagonism often leads to an expectation of unfair treatment, and the spin-off may be an acceptance of the situation by other employees.

Labour market shortages cause pay spirals, and organizations that have always grown their own staff now having to buy staff in directly at higher levels. Some organizations, having trained staff, then find them being poached by other organizations. The National Health Service and the Inland Revenue are good examples of this. However, there are problems for an organization in acquiring good specialist trainers, offering conversion training—losing good staff from other areas of their work—and giving staff marketable skills.

Generally, in relation to specialists, market forces never work very effectively. There is a time lag. By the time people have chosen and been trained in a shortage career, say, five years, there is suddenly a glut of people on the labour market.

Employers can keep their specialists without adding to the pay spiral.

It isn't the easy option, but it is likely to be the more effective option in the longer term.

Jill Yeates is manpower adviser to the Institute of Manpower Studies

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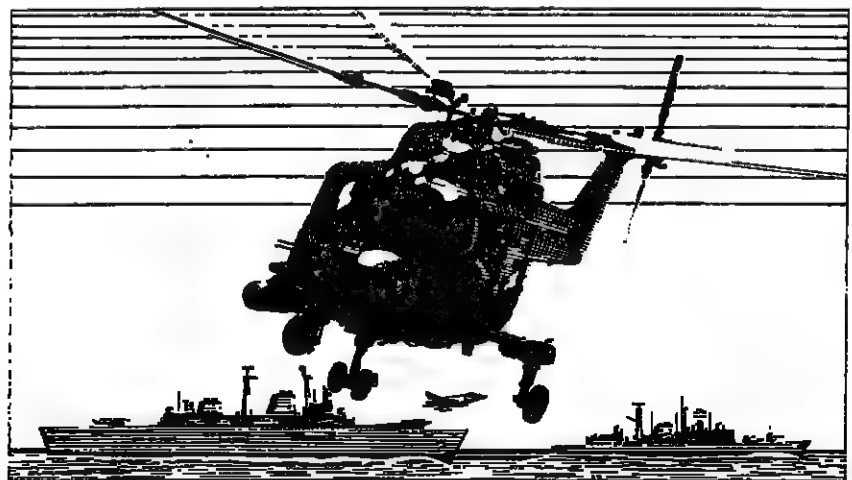
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- Candidates should have up to 2 years' post-qualification experience, either within public practice or commerce; more importantly, you should be keen to learn, able to liaise at all levels and ready for genuine responsibility. This diverse challenge will provide the ideal preparation for rapid promotion into a more specialist senior position at Head Office, a commercial management role or Financial Controlling of a subsidiary.
- Please contact NICOLA LENDRUM on 01-404 3155 at ALDERWICK PEACHELL & PARTNERS LIMITED, Accountancy & Financial Recruitment, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA.



ALDERWICK PEACHELL & PARTNERS LTD

## Recruitment Consultant

We are a highly-regarded, independent consultancy specialising in legal recruitment. We now have a vacancy for another Consultant to join our team in Central London.

Candidates should be in their 20s or 30s with a successful record of achieve-

ment. Above all, they will be lively and outgoing, and will enjoy dealing with people.

We can offer you a friendly working environment, and a salary in the region of £25,000 to £30,000 pa. Please send c.v.s to Michael Chambers, marked 'Strictly Private'.

Chambers

74 Long Lane, London, EC1 Tel: 01-606 9371

## LONDON C.V.'S

Don't sell yourself short with a C.V. of low quality.

Tel 09662 6884

## TOUR OPERATOR

Young capable person req for small touring travel company in central London. Salary circa £10,000. Company responsible for France and Italy, French or Italian language useful. French Advant 01 786 1977.

## Are you at the crossroads of your career?

Very often executives and other professional people contemplate a change right in the middle of their career.

Most often their reasons for this are a general dissatisfaction with their present career and the belief that they could and should be doing better.

CHUSID LANDER is a group of specialist career consultants who for many years have been helping people earning £15,000 a year, or more, to get better jobs—whether they are currently in a job, unemployed or facing redundancy.

We have turned pessimism into optimism, failure into success and guided executives into highly successful people earning very much more—and we can prove it.

For many years, we have been guiding people in the right direction—now it's your turn!

To arrange an early confidential appointment without obligation, telephone your nearest office. (24 hour answerphone in London) or send us your c.v.

LONDON 01-680 6771 MANCHESTER 061-228 0089  
BIRMINGHAM 021-643 8105 BELFAST 0232 621324  
BRISTOL 0272 262367 GLASGOW 041-332 1502

**CHUSID LANDER**  
35/37 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 5AF



## Are you Management Material?

EPS, a successful national company requires motivated young men and women to train rapidly to management positions.

Essentials are self-motivation, application to hard work and the ability to absorb new ideas rapidly. This opportunity carries the potential for high earnings in your first year.

Prove you can make it in management by telephoning:

Regional Manager  
836-4038

A MEMBER OF THE General Portfolio Group



01-481 4481

## GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

## REGIONAL SALES ENGINEER

**£18,400 Salary on target earnings of £26,000 in first year. Granada Ghia + Car Phone + Expenses + Health Cover**

Following product training in Germany, liaise with a clearly defined customer sector on behalf of this rapidly expanding manufacturer.

Advancement to management will be the next move as further new products and services come on stream.

## SALES ENGINEERS

**£12,500 + Bonus + Quality Car**

This wholly owned subsidiary of a famous multi-national are experiencing rapid market growth which has promoted the need to expand the sales team.

Aged between 25 - 45 you will have a technical background, preferably with an electrical/electronic bias, however this is not essential. You should be articulate and presentable and capable of working in a team environment.

In addition to a good starting salary and bonus, there are excellent company benefits in line with that expected from this prestigious group.

**Austin  
Benn**

NORTH: Peter Endes (061) 834 1799

CENTRAL: Brian Stanbridge (0923) 816621

SOUTH: David Blacklock (06266) 67095

OFFICES IN: Birmingham, Bristol, Crawley, Manchester, Northampton, Nottingham, Slough, Swindon, Watford.

## MASON EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL

**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT KENT TO 20k**  
Auditing and general accounting for 3 partner operation, newly qualified accountants considered.

**COMPUTER PROGRAMMER LONDON £ neg**

**ANALYST PROGRAMMER LONDON TO £24k**

**MARKETING ASSISTANT KENT £ neg**  
This Hi Tec company is looking for creative people to join their marketing team.

**PERSONNEL OFFICER LONDON £15k**  
Good analytical and interpersonal skills needed for research section of prestigious Co. 3 years experience with a major employer preferred.

**MARKETING PRODUCTION MANAGER LONDON £15k**  
Prestigious P.C. Company is looking for an experienced professional with direct mail, print buying + production experience.

Consult with the Professionals

Ring **WENDY GEORGE**

on 01-464-6460

For a London or Bromley interview

## TRAIN FOR DYNAMIC SALES

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Increased demand for our services means we are seeking Recruiters to act in a support role for our sales staff. The post will involve the recruitment of contract computer personnel for existing clients with long-term opportunities to move into sales.

Whilst some knowledge of the data processing industry and a graduate background would be preferred we are interested in finding candidates with good interpersonal skills who would like to develop into quality salespeople.

We are offering a high basic salary plus commission - OTE in excess of £12.5k in the first year and a planned progression over 18 months/2 years into the sales function with OTE of £20k.

Applications with full CV to:

John Prescott  
Director - Project Software Division  
EuroLink Group Ltd  
Blenheim House  
56 Old Steine  
Brighton BN1 1NH

**EUROLINK  
GROUP LIMITED**

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR SENIOR PARTNER OF AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

We are seeking an enterprising Man or Woman with broad business administration experience to work with our very busy senior partner who is involved in a wide range of international legal and business matters. The applicant must be a self starter with strong organisational talents, a 'clean desk' mentality, a sense of humour and the ability to work under pressure. Knowledge of basic book-keeping and financial concepts essential. The position offers constant variety, opportunities for participation in small business developments and personal satisfaction together with a competitive salary and yearly bonus. Our offices are situated in Aldwych, WC2. Please send details to Christine Fox, Goddessman Jones and Partners, Aldwych House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4HN. Telephone 01 242 8953.

## TO £25k + CAR GENERAL MANAGER

Reporting directly to M.D.  
Riverside - the most exciting and comprehensive Sports Club in the country - is substantially increasing its facilities over the next year. We are now looking for a General Manager to take over the day-to-day running of the Club whilst reporting directly to the Managing Director.

This is a new position and the successful applicant must be able to motivate and lead a young and enthusiastic team of over 100. Budgeting/marketing/financial skills are necessary, as is a keen interest in health and fitness.

This is a key position within the Company and will lead to an eventual Board position after a satisfactory trial period.  
Please apply with C.V., in writing, in the first instance to:

A. Holmes Esq, Managing Director, Riverside Racquet Centre P.L.C, Drake's Mansions, Chiswick, London W4 2SL.

## CHEMICALS MANAGER

Is required for a prestigious Trading Company with agencies for leading chemical companies. Applicants must be chemical graduates with wide experience in chemical marketing.

Please send detailed CV with recent photo to: PO Box 2377, Safat 13098, Kuwait for the attention of the Administration Manager.

## An open door into the world of property management

**£10,000-£11,000 Central London**

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Working with the Estate Management Surveyors the job involves all aspects of property administration, including maintenance of computerised records and plans, insurance administration, authorisation of payments, and ensuring that deadlines for lease expiry, rent reviews etc. are met. Some site inspections will be involved, to check the external appearance of properties.

Good communication skills are essential as is excellent organisational ability - you will be dealing with our clients and ensuring that their best interests are looked after in their property dealings. Keyboard skills would also be an asset.

The salary in the range £10,000-£11,000 pa together with good promotional prospects make this a first class opportunity for someone looking to move up into the world of property management.

Interested? Then please send your cv to: Diana Mackintosh, Drivers Jonas, Chartered Surveyors and Urban Real Estate Consultants, 16 Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HL. Tel: 01-930 9731.

## BRANCH MANAGER

Ideal career move for ambitious recruitment professional.

You already have a record of achievement as a manager in the recruitment industry. Now you are eager to apply your commercial knowledge coupled with your style, energy and drive to the tasks of man management and business development as a key London Branch Manager for a prestigious company.

Kelly Temporary Services offers you a rare combination, the opportunity for achievement and scope for progression at a time of expansion, together with the backing and experience of our well established, highly respected organisation.

We expect reward initiative and commitment so you will find the package attractive.

If you know you can succeed in this demanding and challenging role please send your CV to:

Sandra Hatching  
Personnel Manager  
European Headquarters  
Kelly Temporary Services Ltd  
Dolcis House  
87-91 New Bond Street  
LONDON  
W1Y 0HQ.

**Kelly  
Temporary  
Services**

## INFOCHECK SALES EXECUTIVE

Young dynamic and expanding company needs an energetic outgoing and enthusiastic new executive to complement the existing team. The ideal candidate will be 20/30, well educated and of smart appearance. Basic + Commission + Car.

## TELE-MARKETING

An opportunity exists for a self-starter with tele marketing experience to promote our extensive range of services. Great opportunities for right person. Package negotiable.

Please send CV and letter to:

Simon Wade, Marketing Manager,  
Infocheck Ltd, 28 Scrutton Street  
London EC2A 4RQ

## GRADUATE FOR CITY HEADHUNTERS

A successful, well-established City based firm of Headhunters seeks a young graduate to assist the Consultants with research and general administration. Probably aged 21-23, he/she will need a quick lively mind, an outgoing personality and above all the ability to 'think on his/her feet'. Experience with computers will be helpful.

The appointment will be for a period of between six and twelve months, and could suit a person wishing to gain an insight into the workings of the City/Industry to assist them in choosing a career. Relevant training will be provided as necessary.

Please reply in the first instance giving full details to: Iwan Cass, Ophely & Mather Focus, Chancery House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JQ.

## LLOYD'S UNDERWRITING AGENCY

We are a young insurance underwriting company requiring a well-spoken school-leaver with a minimum of 2 'A' Levels. We offer good working conditions + an excellent package. Life can be hectic, so you must be able to cope under pressure. A non-smoker a must. Please ring Miss Arnott on:

01 481 1166

## EXPERIENCED RESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATOR

Urgently required to help run the sales department of an established estate agency in North London. This is an ideal position for someone with experience and initiative to show their ability to generate sales. Success will be highly rewarded with a package of basic salary, superb commission & car/personal allowance.

Peterson & Partners,  
141 Westbourne Grove,  
London W11 2NS  
01 722 8612

## RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR

Required by Estate Agents in SW1. Intelligent, initiative and smart appearance essential. Minimum 5 'O' levels.

Salary £16,000 approx.  
Tel: 01-828-1437

## 2 MANAGEMENT VACANCIES NEEDED

Rapidly expanding city wine bar/restaurant group needs bright personable people to join their team. To join young friendly team - excellent promotion prospects. Monday to Friday. Train in our own Head Office. Experience, although helpful, not essential. Starting salary £7,500 NEG. CV's to box BOX 888.

## SENIOR SALES CONSULTANT - ELECTRONICS

**£16,250 + Substantial Bonus + BMW 320i + Full Package**

A thorough and enjoyable induction programme will fully prepare you to assume this key development role in a company respected for their pioneering technology in the field of electronics, with an enviable reputation for customer support.

Your guaranteed success will activate a major plan of expansion backed by substantial capital investment, and an opportunity for a senior management role.

## THE PERFORMING RIGHT SOCIETY

An association of Composers, Authors and Publishers of music require a:

## FOREIGN RELATIONS ASSISTANT/TRANSLATOR c.£11,750 to start

To undertake the advanced translation work of the Society in French, German and preferably at least one other Western European language. In addition the successful applicant will assist the Foreign Relations Representative in her administrative tasks which include correspondence with affiliated overseas societies, dealing with foreign visitors to the Society, assisting in the organisation of international meetings held in this country and making arrangements for the foreign travel and accommodation for management trips abroad.

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent in French plus German. Spanish would be an ideal third language. Basic typing skills are also required, including, preferably some word processor experience. Benefits include staff restaurant, S.T.L., L.V's, Pension Scheme, bonus and Mortgage Subsidy (after a qualifying period).

Applications in writing enclosing full career details to: Karen Robertson, Personnel Officer, The Performing Right Society Ltd., 29/33 Berners Street, London W1P 4AA.

**The Performing Right Society Limited**



## WE CARE WHO HEADS UP OUR TEAMS

Are you currently working as a Temporaries Controller or Permanent Counsellor and do you believe you are now ready to take the very demanding and rewarding role as Manager of your own branch? If so, we would be interested in talking to you about our exciting opportunities in two of our City Branches.

At Kingsway our staff are our most important asset and we therefore look after them accordingly. We will not throw you in at the deep end and you will receive ongoing training and support from senior management and indeed from your colleagues at Kingsway. So if you really feel ready to take the next step and believe you are worth a salary in the region of £17,000 please contact:

Margaret Reed, Kingsway Personnel Services Ltd.,  
C.I. Tower, St. George's Square,  
High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4HH.  
Tel. No. 01-836 1414

**KINGSWAY CARES**  
Recruitment Consultants

## A direct line to the executive shortlist

To secure the best appointments at a senior level needs more than good advice, accurate objectives and succinct presentation. InterExec not only provides career advice, but also a unique service to bridge the critical gap between counselling and the right job. Why waste time and money on unproductive letters?

InterExec clients do not need to find or apply for appointments. Over 50 full-time staff with over 5,000 unadvertised vacancies p.a. enable InterExec to offer the only confidential Executive placement service. What is each unproductive day costing you?

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A member of the Career Development & Outplacement Division

Landseer House, 19 Charing Cross Road, London WC2N 0ES

**The one who stands out**

## INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING AND PRESS AGENCY NEEDS

Young women and men for international jobs, ready to travel most of the year, good salary, based in Madrid, Spain.

## INDISPENSABLE:

Between 25 and 28 years old, preferably

Fluent English, French and Spanish

Any other language (Russian, Japanese) will be an advantage.

Excellent appearance.

If you consider yourself apt for the job, please send a complete Curriculum Vitae with recent photograph to:

Alta, Felipe Lopez, Nadal, Velazquez, 133.51.15°C,

28008 Madrid, SPAIN.

## THE TIMES

## AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY DEADLINES

**The Times will be publishing on August Bank Holiday Monday.**

Copy deadline is as follows:

Monday 29th Aug ) 5pm Friday 26th August  
Tuesday 30th Aug )

The Classified Department will be open on

Saturday 27 August 9.30am - 1pm

but closed on Monday 29th August

August 25, 1988

01-481 4481

## GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

## REGIONAL SALES ENGINEER

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Sandra Hatching  
Personnel Manager  
European Headquarters  
Kelly Temporary Services Ltd  
Dolcis House  
87-91 New Bond Street  
LONDON  
W1Y 0HQ.

**Kelly  
Temporary  
Services**

## INFOCHECK SALES EXECUTIVE

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Peterson & Partners,  
141 Westbourne Grove,  
London W11 2NS  
01 722 8612

## RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR



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01-481 4481

# BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

01-481 4481

## Management Accountant

Gloucester Up to £25,048 p.a.

Applications are invited for the appointment of Head of Revenue Budgets Section within the Finance Department located at the CEGB, Generation Development and Construction Division, Divisional Headquarters, Barnwood, Gloucester.

The successful applicant will Head a Section responsible for all aspects of Management Accounting and Budgetary Control of the Division's Revenue costs (approximately £120m per annum).

Reporting to the Divisional Financial Manager, he/she will provide a full financial service to all Departmental Heads and other Responsible Officers and will be expected to instigate ad hoc exercises related to cost reduction and control.

Applicants must be qualified Accountants who can demonstrate the ability to operate sound financial monitoring systems with the minimum of supervision. Experience of budgetary and cost control procedures is essential. The preferred age range for this appointment is 30-45 years.

The normal benefits commensurate with employment within a large organisation are offered together with a salary within a range from £21,481 to £25,048 per annum.

Relocation assistance is offered in appropriate circumstances. Application forms, obtainable from the Recruitment Section, Personnel Branch, CEGB, GD & CD, Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RS (telephone Gloucester (0452) 652335, 24 hour answerphone) should be completed and returned not later than 9 September 1988. Envelopes and correspondence should be marked 'Confidential' and quote vacancy reference number 282/88.

Interviews for this appointment will be held on Monday, 26 September 1988.

The CEGB is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD

## FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

RETAIL - PROPERTY SERVICES DIVISION  
£27,000 + CAR + BENEFITS AGED: 28-40  
BASED: SOUTH EAST

As the result of substantial investment and professional management our client is one of the fastest growing food retailers in the UK. As part of a Plc their commitment to new store development and refurbishment is well known and continues to accelerate.

Due to their exciting plans the need has arisen for a Financial Controller-Property. Reporting to the Group Property Director your department will be responsible for setting the structure for future financial planning and budgetary control of the Group's property activities.

Applicants will be qualified, commercially aware and with above average interpersonal and communication skills. You will have experience of a "fast moving" environment and knowledge of the retail property sector would be advantageous. This is a high profile role and as such success will lead to further career opportunities within the Group.

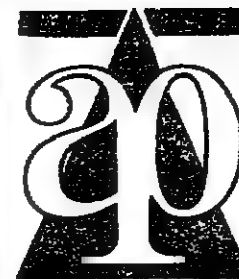
This is an outstanding opportunity to join a growing and professional organisation and in return for your skills our client offers an excellent salary and competitive benefits package. Relocation assistance is also available if required.

Interested candidates should contact Mr. Stephen Marley at the address below:-



ASHWOOD ASSOCIATES  
Recruitment and Management Consultants

Terranova House, 110 Lane  
off Eastham Road  
Barnet, Herts AL5 2JH  
Telephone 01441 484464



Accountancy Personnel  
Placing Accountants First

## FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

W1 £25,000 + Car + Bens.

Established before big bang, this leading fund management group operate in Europe and the Far East. As a newly/recently qualified ACA/CACA your duties will be varied involving nitty gritty accounts, ad hoc projects, and management reports to the board. Benefits - early review, executive car, travel benefits, restaurant, pension and profit share. REF: W8

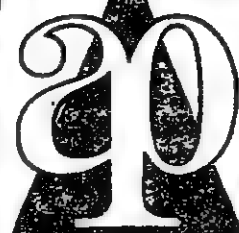
79 New Bond St, W1 Tel: 01-493 3813

## ACCOUNTS MANAGER

WC1 £16,500

Following a period of rapid expansion, this highly successful publishing group have a career opening for a highly motivated individual to run their accounts department. Reporting to the Chief Accountant, responsibilities will include the preparation of management accounts and helping to install new systems. Top benefits include BUPA and five weeks holiday. REF: C1673

307/308 High Holborn, WC1 Tel: 01-404 4551



Accountancy Personnel  
Placing Accountants First

## MANAGEMENT SERVICES MANAGER

SURREY £230,000 + PACKAGE

Growth in Employment and related Services has been Spectacular in the past 3 years. In order to fuel further progress this Substantial Division of a large private conglomerate wishes to recruit an experienced line manager to act as an interface between the operational and administrative functions. Your responsibilities will include all computer operations, the development and design of new systems and the control of an internal training and computer support department.

Reporting to the Group Finance Director you will be in your 30's, have an accounting qualification and have extensive Computer Management experience. As well as superb prospects within such a progressive Company a highly attractive Salary and benefits package on offer.

In the first instance please Contact Reference SM/CL

For further details contact  
ACCOUNTANCY PERSONNEL  
70 Watling Street,  
London EC4M 4DD  
Tel: 01-236 4428

## TREVOR JAMES ACCOUNTANCY

### PART QUALIFIED ACA FOR ACQUISITIONS/ CORPORATE AFFAIRS

City Salary £14,000-£16,000

Part of a major UK plc, our clients are a team of consultants servicing the Group's major acquisition programme. This is a high profile team based in prestigious new corporate headquarters in the City.

The high level of activity necessitates the recruitment of a young accountant (early to mid twenties) to assist in:-

- Investment Appraisals
- Preparation of pre-acquisition reports
- Negotiation of Sale and Purchase Agreements
- Industry reviews
- Monitoring the Group's register of shareholders.

Additionally, you will be extensively involved in obtaining listings on foreign Stock Exchanges.

Candidates, who will be graduates, should have spent at least one year in Public Practice and this role is ideally suited to PEI level accountants. Commercial awareness is a key attribute, with the ability to communicate effectively and professionally at all levels. Basic spreadsheet literacy is essential.

As one of the UK's most dynamic plc's, the Company offers the successful candidate exceptional career prospects.

For a preliminary interview, please telephone or write to:-

Martin Humberstone BA AECI - General Manager,  
Tel: 01-481 8111

Trevor James Accountancy,  
Lloyds Avenue House, 6 Lloyds Avenue,  
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## HORIZONS

Graduates might know their stuff, but too many of them appear unable to put it across, says Roger Jones

## Speaking out for better communication skills

Talented and knowledgeable people by the thousand graduate from Britain's universities and polytechnics every year, but do they all possess the skills that potential employers demand? Sarah Gash and Denis Reardon, of Birmingham Polytechnic, are not convinced that they do, and they have begun a research project to discover how widespread this problem is.

The skills on which they are focusing are those that a person is going to need whatever his subject of study, and whatever career he takes up. For this reason they are termed personal transferable skills, and their common denominator appears to be communication. The skills cover a wide range - from writing reports and memos to arguing a point persuasively and relating to others.

Unfortunately, these vital skills are by no means as widespread as one might think - a fact that can cause problems for individuals - and also for the organizations that employ them. A relative of mine, for instance, who works for a large engineering company, has recently spent long hours rewriting reports drawn up by some of his younger colleagues.

In their original form, the reports

were badly constructed, and the ideas they contained were expressed in an incoherent manner. Yet the writers were regarded as extremely competent in their disciplines. The problem stemmed from the fact that the engineering courses they had attended had concentrated exclusively on teaching engineering skills. The idea that engineers, scientists and technologists need to communicate, sometimes with people

### 'Many students, even artists, just waffled'

from other disciplines, tends to be overlooked by course leaders. Yet if they are to be successful in their chosen professions, graduates need to be able to write intelligibly, argue persuasively and explain clearly.

However, poor communication ability is not confined solely to "boffins". Miss Gash and Mr Reardon have found this deficiency in their own first-year students in the librarianship and information studies department.

"At its crudest level, people don't know the difference between an essay and an exam answer," says Miss Gash. "A lot of our students, even those on the arts

side, didn't know how to structure an essay. They just waffled."

So they set about remedying the problem, and for the past four years new entrants to the department have been offered a course in transferable skills. They learn how to collect and analyse information, how to present a discussion paper, how to relate to other people and manage in a hostile environment, how to communicate effectively and appropriately. Though the course is voluntary, the rate of acceptance is remarkably high.

This is encouraging because information scientists certainly need to be able to express themselves properly. So, too, do managers, engineers and public sector officials, who may not regard themselves as part of the information business. Good qualifications alone will not suffice to ensure survival in one's chosen career, as has been confirmed during discussions between the two academics and different companies.

If these skills are so vital and universally applicable, why do they not form part of the educational syllabus in schools or higher-education establishments?

"The excuse departments give is that there is so much ground to be



Their business is communication: Denis Reardon and Sarah Gash

covered in their particular subject area that there is no time for extras," says Miss Gash. "I think lecturers expect their students to learn these things by osmosis."

A prime reason for the popularity of her course is that it is conducted by departmental staff rather than by outsiders. "If people in the academic department teach the skills programme, the students' view of the importance of transferable skills increases," says Mr Reardon.

"American academics we chatted to at international conferences insisted this was the way it had to be done."

I suppose college authorities felt they needed such training. Some of them arrive at college not having written a piece of continuous prose since the age of 14."

Mrs Middleditch's efforts to improve their general performance appear to have been vindicated. She can quote instances in which former college students have competed for jobs against untrained university and polytechnic graduates, and won the day on the strength of their superior communication skills.

Several universities, too, are realizing the need to prepare their students for the real world. She cites the example of Reading, which runs one-week courses for graduates in report-writing, self-presentation, and several other skills that they will need to deploy in their future working environment.

Yet as universities and polytechnics begin to concern themselves with transferable skills, budget cuts are forcing some colleges to disperse with their courses. Mrs Middleditch fears this will mean that in future college students will lose the competitive advantage that instruction in these skills has hitherto given them.

She is, nevertheless, taking a lively interest in the Birmingham Polytechnic research project, which has been under way in its present form since April. Miss Gash and Mr Reardon have, of course, already conducted some initial research on their own students, but during the past few months the project has expanded in scope.

It has already attracted interest and support from IBM, BP and the Oldham Foundation, all of which realize the importance of

having a reserve of well-rounded graduates from which to recruit the key staff of the future. Their first task is to contact all university and polytechnic departments in the UK to discover whether they find their undergraduates deficient in transferable skills, and, if so, what provision they are making to overcome the difficulty.

Once the Birmingham Polytechnic has obtained a full picture of the situation, it intends to write a state-of-the-art report. This will be followed up with a seminar to discuss the findings, in which the project sponsors will be closely involved.

As the issues raised are likely to be of general concern, invitations will be sent out not only to academics but also to representatives from commerce and industry. A subsequent development from this might well be the establishment of an information

### Lively discussion in the coming months

exchange, listing sources of instructional material, subject by subject.

"We feel there is a need to raise levels of awareness of personal transferable skills," says Mr Reardon. If he succeeds in this objective, Britain's campuses should be the scene of much lively discussion in coming months, as dons ponder whether they are doing enough to equip their proteges for the future.

Further information: Sarah Gash, Project Supervisor, Department of Librarianship and Information Studies, Birmingham Polytechnic, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2SU (021-331 5623)

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Gross annual salary from 110130 KFF depending on qualifications and experience with, in addition, a monthly family supplement. For non-French staff, there will be added an expatriation allowance (calculated on the basis of family situation), a settling-in allowance and an adaptation allowance (paid once).

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## SPORTS LETTERS

## Insult of Coe's non-selection

From Mr. J. M. H. Balcon  
Sir, It is with considerable sadness one reads about drink-induced madness now occurring on our racecourses. Racing has always been where the well-heeled, the not so well-heeled, the aristocracy, and the labouring classes met on more or less equal terms. Each knew their place, be it grandstand, members' enclosure, or silver ring. Now, as with so many other institutions, the "Ira as good as you" syndrome has raised its ugly head, and those with more money than good manners are weakening the link with the staid lives of those of us lucky enough to have been brought up properly.

The reason, sadly again, is sponsorship. Sponsorship has given the sponsors the ability to offer free racing, free eating, free drinking, free transport to workers, etc.

At present the Olympics are nothing more than a glorified international match, with their rigid limit of three competitors per nation per event. The inevitable result is that in some events, while some countries can send the full quota of three mediocre athletes who just make the grade, other countries have to leave at home potential finalists and medal-winners simply because they have a surfeit of excellence in a given event.

Bearing in mind that the Olympic motto is *Citius, Altius, Fortius* (Faster, Higher, Stronger), surely the aim of the Olympic movement should be to allow all those athletes who are faster, higher and stronger than the rest of the world to compete. To this end the IOC might consider allowing one athlete per nation and then select the remaining competitors for each event from performances at certain recognized meetings. It may be that a large number of the sprinters competing in the Games will be American, while a good number of the middle-distance runners might be British, but at least we would see all the best competitors meeting each other in each event.

Yours faithfully,  
SYLVIA DISLEY,  
Hampton House,  
Upper Sunbury Road,  
Hampton, Middlesex.

## Idyllic setting

From Mr. A. J. M. Clark  
Sir, All who watched Glamorgan v Worcestershire at Aber-gegnwy will endorse the description of your Cricket Correspondent (August 17) that the match was played "in the most idyllic surroundings for county cricket".

What added greatly to the scene was the absence of advertising posters which surrounded our county grounds.

If the teams could serve up batting of the quality displayed by Hick and Maynard, the much-needed income would come through the gates and there would be no need to resort to this unsightly and intrusive form of commercialism.

Yours truly,  
A. J. M. CLARK,  
308 Western Avenue,  
Llandaff, Cardiff.

## Guide to racecourse manners

From Mr. J. M. H. Balcon  
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Yours truly,  
A. J. M. CLARK,  
308 Western Avenue,  
Llandaff, Cardiff.

## The ivory kick

From Mr. Charles W. Coe  
Sir, In reply to L. N. Agate as to whether ivory balls kicked (August 11), yes, they did, and how. They could also run very foul and eccentric if the ambient temperature was not to their liking (they liked 60°F). Some times players would put the set into their pockets to warm up. In the tropics they would go out of shape. Sometimes professional players would complain because the ivory was harsh and not nice and mellow. Harshness made for kicking, among other factors.

A set of billiard balls was usually kept in a little box packed with sawdust (today it would be silica gel). The ebony spot in the spot ball caused much kicking and in important matches a pencil mark was made instead. Before the match

begin, there was the ritual of "weighing the balls".

In 1923 the billiard writer and expert, Riso Levi, carried out a series of experiments as to why billiard balls (ivory and composition) kicked. Every factor was investigated, with the exception of electro-magnetism, the only scientific aid he had was some postage stamps, paper wafers, fabrics, silk, and a magnifying glass. And yes, the answer was that, out of several factors, chalk was the big culprit, especially the soft white then still used. The cheap coloured brands were almost as bad. Riso Levi also mentioned that some balls (ivory and composition) kicked more than others, implying an innate tendency to malfunction in the balls themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
C. W. COE,  
162 Oxwich Close,  
Corringham, Essex.

Yours truly,  
A. J. M. CLARK,  
308 Western Avenue,  
Llandaff, Cardiff.

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CRICKET: SLUGGISH TICKET SALES REFLECT THE ANTI-PATHY SURROUNDING ENGLAND'S ATTEMPT TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS

# Gooch seeks relief from a summer of desperate muddle

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

There is a sense of desperation in St John's Wood this morning. A Test match against Sri Lanka, at other times little more than an exhibition game, has been elevated by the grim events of the past 12 months into a last chance for England to prove to a largely sceptical audience that they are not the worst Test team in the world.

It is not a happy way to approach a game, but it does give the sixth Cornhill Test of the summer rather more spice than expected. In more prosperous circumstances, England would have found little public appreciation of their efforts against this opposition.

Victory would have been no more than was expected, a draw condemned as failure and defeat as calamity. Now, no matter the shortcomings of the inexperienced Sri Lankans, a win would bring blessed relief after a sequence of 18 barren Tests and help alleviate an increasingly evident antipathy to the team's selection and management.

In football terms, today's contest would be a relegation battle. On the racecourse it would be deemed little better than selling class. The evidence comes in the advance ticket sales, so far only £163,000, well down on the usual Lord's budget. Only 15,000 tickets have been sold for the first three days.

England have not won a game in their last four series on home soil and, after a thorough mauling at the hands of West Indies, they try again with another dramatically reshaped team, containing only five survivors from the four-day defeat at the Oval two weeks ago.

The only player to have ridden this stormy summer is Graham Gooch. Thus, almost by mass default, he has become England's fourth official captain in six games, an unprecedented turnover which smacks of hopelessly muddled thinking by those in power.

How much more settled

might things have been if Gooch, one man whose class guarantees permanence, had been appointed as Gooch's successor back in June? This, sadly, is just one instance of belated, slamming of stable doors by a selection committee which appears only to get things right once it has exhausted all possible means of getting them wrong.

The most scandalous example is on public display at Lord's today, when Jack Russell makes his debut, which even conservative estimates

form, as a lonely spinner unless Barnett's leg breaks are employed. Ideally, England would have liked two spinners, but whichever way Gooch and the selectors examined the options they could not find the room.

The problem is the unbalancing effect of having no one available who can genuinely be considered an all-rounder, good enough to bat at six and act as one of five bowlers.

Tony Greig did the job for 58 consecutive matches between 1972 and 1977; Ian Botham made the position his own for the next 10 years. Now, unless Capel improves, there is no one in sight.

England feel obliged to play six specialist batsmen against a weak bowling side. It is not the usual six; there is no longer any such thing. Barnett makes his debut, Robinson returns from exile and Lamb from injury.

Old man Gooch just keeps rolling along... 458 runs against West Indies, more than anyone on either side, confirmed his right to be thought the best opener in the world. Still, his public image is that of a dour ditherer, confused and confusing. He knows it, he does not much like it, but neither is he about to change.

Gooch has different priorities to most in his position, and a different, usually introspective and often misanthropic, way of dealing with decisions. But playing for England is still as important to him as ever.

At some stage of the next week, after checking various requirements with the Test and County Cricket Board, Gooch is likely to make himself available for the winter tour of India, ending a now annual saga of suspense. He only needs to galvanize his players adequately in this match to be sure of going as captain.

insist is six matches late. Extremists believe he should have been given the job more than a year ago.

It does seem callously unfair that pure quality has to wait on the shelf while cheaper substitutes corner the market, but hopefully the selectors have now been cured of their persistent faith in wicket-keepers who just might make up (yet seldom do) in batting what they lack in glove work.

Russell will have one familiar face among the bowlers as his Gloucestershire colleague David Lawrence seems sure to open the attack with Neil Foster. England will hope for some pace and bounce in the pitch to promote the theory that Lawrence's extra pace will unsettle the Sri Lankans.

Pringle will presumably be preferred to Newport as the third seamer, leaving Embury, mercifully back in

England batting and fielding

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G.A. Gooch	17	31	1924	275	4	113.2	30
K.J. Barnett	10	24	1281	209	4	106.8	20
A.L. Lamb	18	35	845	117	4	24.1	17
T.S. Curtis	20	35	1314	151	2	37.5	15
R.T. Robinson	18	33	1105	134	4	33.6	12
A.R. Smith	18	37	1092	141	2	29.3	12
R. Bailey	20	35	1183	127	2	33.8	12
R.C. Russell	21	31	729	121	2	34.7	12
J.E. Embury	17	23	598	102	1	34.6	12
P.J. Newport	20	23	381	77	1	16.6	6
D.R. Pringle	16	24	478	128	1	31.9	4
D.R. Pringle	18	18	118	27	1	6.6	1
D.L. Lawrence	19	22	370	57	1	16.8	3

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R.C. Russell	21	31	729	121	2	34.7	12
J.E. Embury	17	23	598	102	1	34.6	12
P.J. Newport	20	23	381	77	1	16.6	6
D.R. Pringle	16	24	478	128	1	31.9	4
D.R. Pringle	18	18	118	27	1	6.6	1
D.L. Lawrence	19	22	370	57	1	16.8	3

denotes not out

England batting and fielding

	M	INO	Runs	HS	50	Avg	Stk
G.A. Gooch	17	31	1924	275	4	113.2	30
K.J. Barnett	10	24	1281	209	4	106.8	20
A.L. Lamb	18	35	845	117	4	24.1	17
T.S. Curtis	20	35	1314	151	2	37.5	15
R.T. Robinson	18	33	1105	134	4	33.6	12
A.R. Smith	18	37	1092	141	2	29.3	12
R. Bailey	20	35	1183	127	2	33.8	12
R.C. Russell	21	31	729	121	2	34.7	12
J.E. Embury	17	23	598	102	1	34.6	12
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England batting and fielding



# A game falling into the money trap

A representative of Barclays, the sponsors of the Football League, tells the chilling story. Approached by an agent before the European championship in June, he was asked whether his company would be interested in becoming one of the beneficiaries of the England squad during the tournament in West Germany.

In return for their generosity, Barclays would apparently be guaranteed global publicity. How? The agent stipulated that after each England goal, the scorer would be instructed to celebrate his feat in the appropriate place. He would lead his colleagues to an advertising board bearing the bank's name.

The offer was declined instantly. Barclays' negotiator was astounded to hear that the England players carried out two duties. One, to their country, remains central. The other, to their financiers, lies on the perimeter. But business, as illustrated by the bankers' tale, now

In his assessment of the new League season, Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, sees a sterile future as clubs bow not to supporters, but sponsors

threatens to encroach too far on to football's fields.

Sponsorship has long been regarded as essential if League clubs are to continue to exist. Yet, in leaning increasingly heavily on the necessary evil, the game is in danger of losing all of the colour, the charm, the individuals and the sense of adventure that once rendered it indisputably the national sport.

Neither managers, nor coaches, nor players have the freedom to take risks or to experiment. Rather than attempting to entertain the public, which used to be their life blood, they must win for the sake of their future security. No one backs losers,

no matter how attractive they may be in defeat.

Players are not so much naturally competitive as cynical creatures. For instance, they instinctively delay free kicks that have been awarded against them. To ensure the ball from the area where a foul has been committed is considered a legitimate tactic rather than the act of a petulant cheat.

During the tournament at Wembley 10 days ago, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur carried out the ploy (which allows defenders time in which to rearrange themselves) more often than either Bayern Munich or even AC Milan, Italian, in their readiness to bend the rules were thought to be the champions of Europe.

During the FA Charity Shield on Saturday Wimbledon's goalkeeper, not a hardened professional but a 20-year-old debutant, sprinted some 25 yards on to the running track to kick the ball away from McMahon. Any fixture this season which does not feature a similar, if

less extreme, example of time-wasting will probably be unique.

The twisted notion that a side must "win at all costs" leads also to physical malice. Supposedly friendly matches in the build-up to the season have included one innocent being knocked unconscious and two pugilists being sent off (or they would have been had both not been immediately substituted) at Upton Park.

As well as indulging in spiteful and often disguised brutality, teams protect themselves by hiding behind the offside trap. The back four may be collectively efficient but the grossly over-used tactic, apart from being a screaming bore for spectators, has helped to diminish the individual ability of defenders.

The same dreaded fear of defeat which persuades managers to rely on the setting of offside traps dissuades them from trying new ideas. How many clubs this season will dare to employ only three defenders at the back, a formation which was used by all four of the

semi-finalists in the European championship.

The claim that the League is the strongest in the world is a myth. Did Liverpool, so dominant in winning the championship, not suffer their heaviest defeat for a dozen years (inflicted by Atletico Madrid) during their preparations? Were Manchester United, the runners-up, not embarrassed at Old Trafford by AC Milan last season?

The League may be the biggest in the world and the most isolated but it is a sterile, staid place where art has been replaced almost wholly by industry. Talent, squeezed into a handful of rich clubs, has been taken over generally by mediocrity, and safety is put well above adventure.

As football yields its sporting soul to business, so it will lose its public appeal. When an Englishman has to score to check on the location of a particular advertising hoarding, then money is talking far too loudly for the health of the game.

## Langer must calm his nerves to avoid financial cut

From Mitchell Platts  
Golf Correspondent  
Frankfurt

Not even the small fortune that Bernhard Langer has made in the past few years can disguise his fear of failure in the German Open, which begins here today on the Frankfurt course.

In pure financial terms, Langer is desperately clinging to the hope of finding another cure for the putting yips which have returned to haunt him. Yet the pressure of excruciatingly intense for him to succeed in front of his own supporters.

The West German possesses considerable skill. Even when he does not know until he is locked in the heat of competition whether his putting stroke will once again betray him. He is probably being paid his usual appearance fee of around £35,000, so he carries the additional burden of knowing the sponsors will want him present for the entire weekend.

In pure financial terms, Langer has probably forfeited approximately £200,000 in prize winnings this season by missing succession of half-way cuts. What is more, some sponsors are likely to demand in future that his appearance payments are conditional on him surviving the half-way cut.

There is an abundance of sympathy for the German, but less for Severiano Ballesteros for suggesting here that the European tour has an unbalanced schedule. "Everybody thinks everything in the garden is lovely," he said. "But something goes wrong when six of the best follow one another. I have to take breaks."

Ballesteros has decided not to compete in the European Open at Sunningdale. He draws — approximately £45,000 a time — from continental events, although the likelihood is that he will be back in Britain for the Sunbury world matchplay championship and Dunhill Cup.

With Ballesteros and Langer already "booked" for the German Open, there was, presumably, not enough left in the kitty to attract Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam. Sandy Lyle is absent, playing in the World Series in America, but Mark McNulty defends the title he won with a record aggregate of 259 last year.

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	416	4	10	355	4
2	427	4	11	175	3
3	465	4	12	407	4
4	173	3	13	424	4
5	340	4	14	156	3
6	248	3	15	484	5
7	319	4	16	175	3
8	430	4	17	435	4
9	430	4	18	432	4

Out 2435 35 In 3214 36  
Total yardage: 6749

## Tottenham enter the chase for Townsend

Norwich City may be beaten to signing Andy Townsend, the Southampton midfielder player, by Tottenham Hotspur, Norwich agreed a fee of £300,000 with Southampton on Tuesday, but have failed to negotiate personal terms since.

Tottenham, whose manager, Terry Venables, admires the pace and scoring ability of Townsend, have made a late bid for him too.

Portsmouth may postpone their first home match of the season, against Leicester City on Monday, because of repair work needed at Fratton Park.

An anonymous punter will collect £500,000 if Scarborough reach the first division by the 1991-92 season after placing a £4,000 bet, at 125-1, with William Hill. The same man also

placed £10,000 each way at 25-1 on the club winning the fourth division this season.

Brentford have agreed terms over last month's transfer of Gary Phillips to Reading, thus avoiding a tribunal decision. Reading will pay Brentford £15,000 for the goalkeeper, plus two additional instalments of £7,500 when he has made 25 and 45 appearances.

Two neighbouring Premier clubs, Stoke City and Port Vale, have agreed that hooligans banned from one of the clubs will be automatically refused entry to the other. A supporter will be banned if convicted of an offence relating to the staging of a football match involving either club, or who has been ejected from a ground twice.

## BOXING: PSYCHOLOGICAL TUTORING FOR BRITAIN'S OLYMPIC TEAM

### Amateurs conjure an animal magic

By Bryan Stiles

This could be the year of the lion for Great Britain's boxers at the Olympic Games in Seoul. The lion is one of the images used by a sports psychologist to put the amateurs in the right frame of mind to take what is likely to be the most hectic Games on record. There will be 550 boxers — 200 more than usual — battling for medals next month and those who do collect gold will have to box five times in 14 days.

John Lyon, the Merseyside flyweight, has seen it all before. This will be his second Olympics and he is the leading light in the team, with a record seven ABA titles to his name. But even he has been impressed with the way he and his companions are being prepared to take on the best in the world.

With a surname like his he immediately went for the image of a lion when Richard Butler, a sports psychologist drafted in from Leeds, asked all the boxers to turn to picture an animal in their mind's eye while shadow boxing and to copy its strong points such as speed, strength, power or balance. Others in the team chose tigers, cobras or cheetahs.

Butler claims to have noted the boxers' activity in the short time he has been working with them and Kevin Hickey, the team coach, is sure that the techniques being used by the psychologists will help his young charges through the stress of the Olympic tournament.

The work of the sports psychologist was revealed at a reception yesterday at the London headquarters of the British Olympic Association, where he handed over £11,000 to help finance the team's preparation. The money has helped the boxers use the training facilities at Crystal Palace and to provide them with a dietitian, a sports psychologist and a physiotherapist.

Hickey is convinced that his team is the best prepared boxing contingent to leave Britain for



Stepping out: Britain's Olympic representatives shape up on the eve of their departure

any Olympics but acknowledges that a great deal will depend on a good draw as well as the skills and mental ability of the boxers. Hickey is charged with the job of putting the work of the psychologist into practice during the Games. The boxers welcome all the

help they have been given as they try to improve Britain's medal-winning record. The team has not won a gold medal since Chris Finnegan achieved the feat in Mexico 20 years ago. The best they have managed in the last three Olympics has been one bronze.

BRITISH TEAM: Light-flyweight: M. Epton (Leeds); Flyweight: M. Epton (Leeds); Bantamweight: M. Epton (Leeds); Featherweight: M. Epton (Leeds); Lightweight: M. Epton (Leeds); Welterweight: M. Epton (Leeds); Middleweight: M. Epton (Leeds); Heavyweight: M. Epton (Leeds).

## Scots are out to prove miles better

By Patricia Davies

The city fathers would have us believe that Glasgow is miles better and there is no doubt that the Scots on the women's European tour relish the thought of competing in the Bowring Scottish Open, which starts today at Cawder.

Dale Reid, who won the title in a play-off with Laura Davies last year, was adamant that a Scottish player would win this year as well, extending the theory that they always seemed to perform well on home territory with their supporters urging them on.

Many people find that sort of expectation too much: witness how few Irishmen win the Carrolls Irish Open or Swedes the Scandinavian Enterprise Open. But no one denies that the Scots are different, particularly when it comes to golf.

Reid, without playing particularly well this season after leading the Woolmark order of merit last year, is still fourth on

the money list and has one victory to her credit in the European Open at Kingswood. She has an extra incentive to do well this week, for her trip to Scandinavia for the Danish and Swedish Opens landed her with a hefty car-parking bill. Arriving late at Heathrow for her flight to Copenhagen, she left the car in the nearest park, discovering on her return to it that it was one of the short-stay jobs and that she owed more than £400. Not the best of welcomes home.

With Davies, Liselotte Neumann and Marie-Laure Lorenzi de Tava, Europe's No. 1 this season, all chasing the dollar at the Nestle world championship in Georgia, Glasgow's first prize of £6,000 will be eyed greedily not only by Reid and fellow Scots like Cathy Pantan and Gillian Stewart, but also by the likes of Alison Nicholas and Corinne Dibnah, the past and present British Open champions.

## Tebbet round is better than day's standard

By John Hennessey

Katie Tebbet, a young golfer of hybrid background, took the lead on the first day of the British women's stroke-play championship with a round of 77 over the perilous links of Royal Portcullis, which she has won in the past.

This is technically three over par and two over the standard scratch score for the 6,073-yard layout prepared under the supervision of Vicki Thomas, who was six times Welsh champion and the fourth of all women's golfing knowledge in these parts.

In the blustery wind, bearing chilling rain early in the day, Thomas, who lies joint second on 78, thought that score a more realistic standard for the day. Tebbet, aged 21, is from Essex by birth, Warwickshire by upbringing, Cheshire by club attachment and Scottish by domicile, now that her father, John, has moved to Prestbury to become secretary at Gullane.

There was, at least yesterday, also a Sussex connection, since she attributed her score partly to the example set by her playing

partner, Karen Mitchell, of Worthing, an acknowledged short-game specialist. Portcullis on such a day places a premium on play round the green. As Tebbet remarked: "You're bound to miss some greens in these conditions."

She practised what she would later preach by a single putt at the first four holes to go one under the strict par. A penalty drop on the 8th and a five-wood into deep rough at the next took her to one over at the turn.

She kept her game together coming home and dropped only one more shot, when a five-iron was too little club against the "wind and rain" on the 14th. Altogether she took only 29 putts.

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 77: Katie Tebbet (Prestbury); 78: N. Thomas (Prestbury); 79: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 80: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 81: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 82: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 83: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 84: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 85: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 86: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 87: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 88: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 89: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 90: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 91: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 92: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 93: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 94: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 95: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 96: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 97: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 98: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 99: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 100: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 101: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 102: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 103: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 104: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 105: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 106: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 107: M. Hennessey (Prestbury); 108: M. 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# Invitation to Coe withdrawn by IOC president

From Pat Butcher  
Athletics Correspondent  
West Berlin

In the face of strong opposition, principally from other top athletes, Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, yesterday withdrew his invitation to Sebastian Coe to compete in Seoul on a "wild card." But the fact that the initiative was taken in the first place will remain as an indication of the esteem in which Coe is held, both as a competitor and as a maturing sports arbitrator.

It was this which Samaranch highlighted as his reasons for extending the invitation to Coe. "This invitation would have been truly exceptional," the IOC president said yesterday.

"A wild card entry like this is not in the Olympic charter but can be allowed if the international federations permit it. I am sorry at the opposition to what would have been a fitting honour for a great athlete and sports personality."

"I must say I am disappointed at the way things have turned out. I have spoken to Seb Coe and have told him what I have decided. And I have invited him to be present in Seoul as my honoured guest. Apart from his two Olympic gold medals, he has made an important contribution to the Olympic movement."

Coe said yesterday that the call from Samaranch was the first official contact that he had had on the matter, which he had been following, "like everyone else, in the media. As an athlete, I must aspire to compete in the Olympic Games. In my particular case there has been the additional ambition to defend the proud Olympic title that I have won twice in succession."

Coe said he would continue training, with the intention of competing in the coming

## COE'S STATEMENT

"Through the various issues and controversies of the last two and a half weeks I have kept my own counsel. I refused the constant requests for interviews. I released only two brief statements."

"At no time have I been in discussion with the British Amateur Athletic Board, the British Olympic Association, the International Olympic Committee or the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Like everyone else, I have followed developments in the media."

"But Mr Samaranch did phone me personally this morning to say that he did not feel able, after all, to extend to me a personal invitation to compete in the Seoul Olympic Games."

weeks. According to the IAAF-Mobil Grand Prix organizers in West Berlin, that should begin tomorrow evening, with Coe running in an 800 metres in the stadium that housed the 1936 Olympics.

So the eleventh-hour possibility of Coe still defending the 1,500 metres title - which had seemed lost when he failed in the British Olympic trials - has been averted. And, as Mike Farrell, secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association, said yesterday: "I think it's the best for everybody in the short term."

But Farrell went on to suggest what might be acceptable in the future, as long as everyone knew well in advance. "If the IOC were to consider the possibility of every Olympic champion having the chance to compete, that is a different matter. But giving a special invite to Seb was always going to stir up a hornet's nest."

There was a lighter side to the affair, with an interesting

"That was my first direct communication of even the prospect of such an invitation."

"These weeks have been something of a switchback ride. During them, I have simply concentrated on getting well again with the help of the BAAB doctor, Malcolm Read, and I have carried on training."

"As an athlete, I must aspire to compete in the Olympic Games. In my particular case, there has been the additional understandable ambition to defend a proud Olympic title that I have won twice in succession."

"I am very grateful to those who made efforts to get me to the Games. I shall look forward to competing in the coming weeks."

idea from Franco Fava, former holder of the Italian 10,000 metres and steeplechase records. Fava, who has seen Said Aouita at close quarters while the Moroccan was living in Italy, suggested that, if Samaranch was going to invite Coe, then the IOC president could also alter the Olympic timetable to suit Aouita, so that the Moroccan could run every event from 800 to 10,000 metres.

"I bet you that if they had one different final each day Aouita would win them all," Fava said. Fortunately again, for all the other athletes competing, this is unlikely to happen.

● Aouita, the Olympic 5,000 metres champion and the man most likely to threaten Steve Cram's chance of Olympic gold, will run in Sunday's McVitie's Challenge meeting at Crystal Palace. But there will be no clash with Cram. The Jarrow athlete runs in the 2,000 metres and Aouita in either the 800 or 1,500 metres.

## Black has ankle operation

Roger Black, the European 400 metres champion, was recovering in a German hospital last night following a serious operation on the ankle injury which has wrecked his Olympic year.

Black, aged 22, from Portsmouth, has been suffering from a stress fracture of his right ankle since February and underwent surgery in Essen yesterday in the hope of curing the problem once and for all.

"The injury had got to the stage where it has just not been

improving over the past couple of months," Mike Smith, Black's coach, said, "so it was considered necessary to have the operation, which is quite a serious one. But we are very hopeful that it will prove successful."

Smith explained that the operation involved drilling holes to improve the circulation of the blood to help heal the fracture, and placing a steel screw in the ankle to hold it firm.

"We will now have to wait a

few weeks to see how it responds. Roger just hopes to be back in action again as soon as possible," he said, acknowledging that this season is out of the question.

Black, part of Smith's brilliant squad of Team Solent 400 metres runners, had a hamstring problem last year which meant he was not fit enough to compete in the individual 400 metres in the world championships, but still helped Britain to silver in the 4 x 400 metres relay.

## Robson in FA inquiry on conduct

Bryan Robson, the England captain, is set to appear before a Football Association track committee to answer questions about his recent conduct. There is a strong possibility that he could be stripped of the captaincy before next month's match against Denmark, at Wembley.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, Ted Croker, the FA general secretary, Dick Wragg, the international chairman, will want to know about an alleged incident involving Robson at a nightclub before the European championship.

Robson, who has captained England more than 40 times, also faces a drink-driving charge. He was stopped by police days after he had returned from West Germany.

The FA is aware that cricket made an example of Mike Gatting during the Test series against the West Indies and that it must also be seen to adopt a tough stance.

Robson is apparently considering taking legal action against certain newspapers over the nightclub incident, after an alleged drinking spree. He may be able to satisfy the committee on that point, but if he is convicted of a drink-driving offence it could cost him dearly.

The England squad to play Denmark will be announced on Monday week and the FA expects to have settled the issue by then.

● Dennis Wise, Wimbledon's unsettled winger, could join Sheffield Wednesday in an exchange deal involving Larry May, the centre half.

May, a £200,000 signing from Barnsley 18 months ago, looked destined to move to Brighton in a £175,000 deal earlier this week.

Bobby Gould, the Wimbledon manager, has made a similar offer for May and Howard Wilkinson's interest in Wise, who is priced at £1.5 million, could be rekindled.

## Aggressive Hodge wins world title

From Peter Bryan, Ghent

Sally Hodge last night gave Britain its first women's world championship track cycling victory in 22 years when she took the 30 kilometre points title here.

Now all the tiny Welsh woman wants is the gold medal to go with the rainbow jersey of world champion.

Originally, it was decided to include the points race in the programme as a demonstration event so that officials might judge its appeal both to riders and spectators. But two days ago the world body, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), said the race would be given full championship status, although too late to have the gold, silver and bronze medals struck.

The missing medal was of no immediate concern to Hodge, aged 22, who, in a two weeks' time, will leave behind her Cardiff home with Britain's team for the Seoul Olympics.

The points race, covering 120 laps of the 250-metre Blaumeeren wooden track, required the 17 starters to sprint for points every sixth lap, with double points awarded at the sixtieth and final laps.

Britain had two riders in the race, with Carol Langley in a support role to Hodge to chase any breakaways and generally helping to protect her colleague. Langley's job was well done, as Hodge was the first to agree. "Carol was wonderful

and we worked well together," she said.

Hodge is well suited to the fast, attacking style demanded by the event, as her background is that of a sprinter who "got bored" with that discipline and turned instead to pursuing.

Last night, she rode with the intention of gaining an early points score not only to put her in with a chance of a medal but also to give her increased confidence in the tightly-packed bunch. Her plan worked and she scored from the first sprint and, by dint of hard work and track craft, Hodge was soon in the lead, an advantage which she never lost.

The Dutch riders were her most dangerous opponents, threatening well into three-quarter distance, but the track-side use of walkie-talkie sets and "secret" signals by the British team kept the Welsh woman up to date with her increasing points tally and those of her rivals.

In the end, it was Barbara Ganz, of Switzerland, who finished runner-up, five points behind Hodge's 37-point score, making her the first British woman world champion since Beryl Burton's pursuit triumph 22 years ago.

Tony Doyle was attempting to make it a double gold night for Britain when he reached the final of the professional 5,000 metre pursuit, in which he was meeting Lech Piasecki, of Poland.

Williams and Penny Toler were dropped after the training camp; before the squad gathered for training here, Vicki Orr withdrew because of continuing knee problems and Cheryl Miller was released after also injuring her knee again.

Clarissa Davis, Fran Harris and Chana Perry have also been dropped, leaving the party one below strength at 11.

## Bruno's Wembley bout in doubt Tyson's brawl casts a shadow

By Jonathan Rendall

Frank Bruno was bearing up stoically yesterday after a would-be heavyweight contender named Mitch "Blood" Green had put his world title challenge in doubt once more after inducing Mike Tyson into a cobblesstones brawl on the streets of New York.

Although both Tyson and Green dispute the exact circumstances, what is certain is that in the early hours of Tuesday morning in Harlem, Tyson hit Green, whom he outpointed in the ring two years ago, this time inflicting facial damage which required five stitches but, in the process, suffered a hairline fracture of his right wrist.

The world champion emerged yesterday with a plaster cast up to his elbow, and only when this is removed in three weeks will his ability to fulfill his engagement with Bruno at Wembley on October 8 be assessed.

Bruno said yesterday: "It's confusing because I thought the fight was definitely on, but that's life. I'll just keep going. If I have to wait another two years, it won't make any difference. I'll stay in the gym."

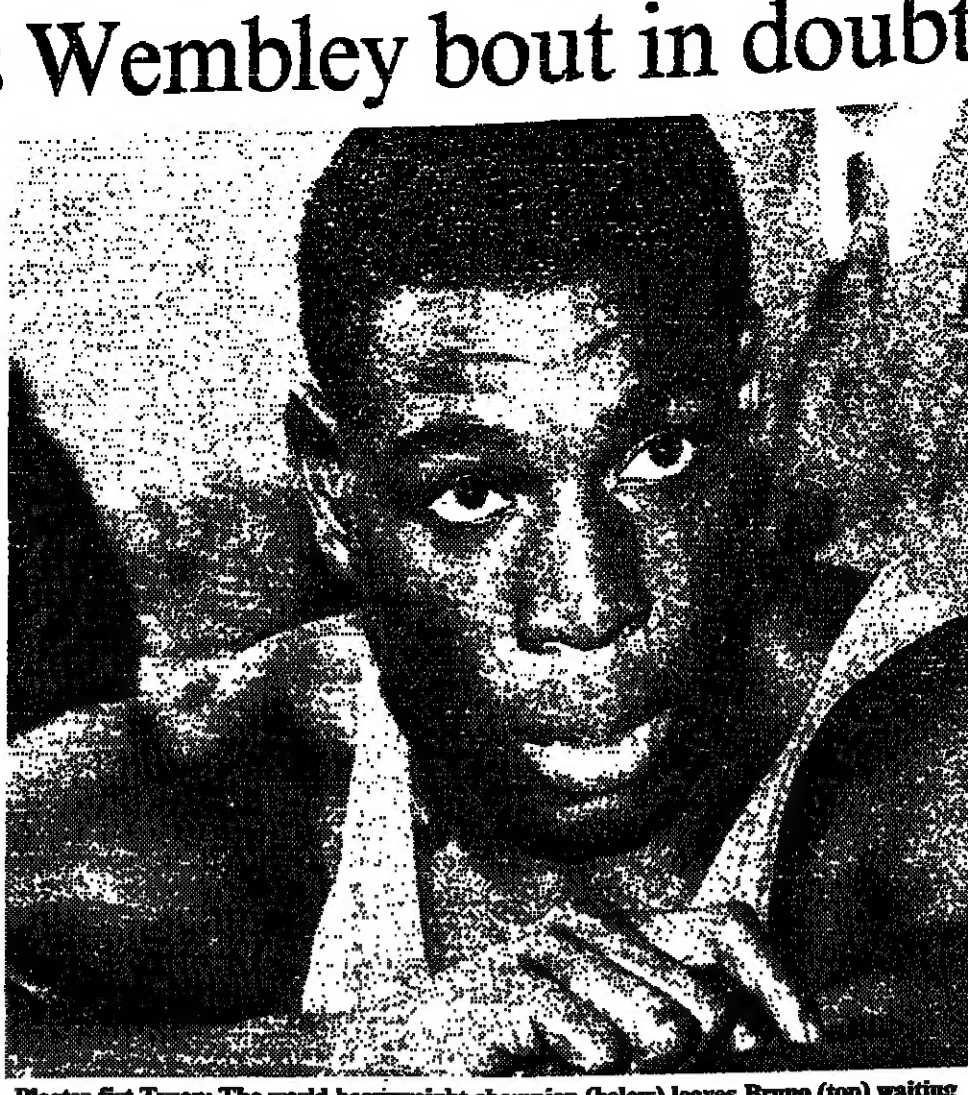
Micky Duff, the co-promoter of the Tyson-Bruno bout, said: "I have spoken to Bill Cayton, Tyson's manager in New York, and Tyson is carrying on his work, doing everything except hit the bags and spar."

Duff, who has booked Wembley Arena for October 15 and 22 to allow for a possible delay, added: "I am confident the fight will go on as planned, but if the worse comes to the worse we would have to move into an indoor arena. But one thing is certain, Mike Tyson's next fight will be against Frank Bruno."

Ironically, Green had approached Duff in May 1986, after losing to Tyson in Madison Square Garden, with a view to him taking over as his manager from Don King, the American promoter. Duff turned down the offer and described Green as "a free-lance troublemaker in search of managers."

Green claimed yesterday that Tyson had attacked him outside an after-hours drinking club following an argument over the 1986 bout. Tyson claimed he had defended himself after Green grabbed him and demanded money as he collected a suit from an all-night clothing store.

Green's bizarre activities are well known to the New York police department. Earlier this year, he was reported to have held up a garage and then dispensed petrol himself for an hour before fleeing. He



Plaster-fist Tyson: The world heavyweight champion (below) leaves Bruno (top) waiting



was apprehended later after a police officer noticed him driving along watching a television mounted on the dashboard.

Green, aged 31, who was jailed for leading a gang in New York's notorious South Bronx area before turning to boxing, was released from his contract by King after he attacked the promoter at a press conference.

Back in London, Bruno, while admitting to being "very surprised" that Tyson should be consorting with such characters, said he had been attacked himself by a drunken

football supporter at this year's FA Cup final.

"It hurt me to walk away from it but I had to," he said. "Sometimes you have to set an example. Tyson has a short fuse but he's only a human being, you've got to remember that."

Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, was less charitable. "I'm disappointed with him as a heavyweight champion and I feel he has let us down," Lawless said. "I imagine what people are thinking when they hear reports like this."

For Bruno, there was some

consolation yesterday when he won shopping vouchers worth £6,000 after his telephone number was picked at random. The prize will provide scant compensation should his reported £1 million title purse fall through, though rather wearily he said: "This may surprise you, but the world doesn't start and finish with Mike Tyson. There's other things to life."

For Tyson there is the prospect of a legal battle outside the ring, as Green is expected to file a charge for assault.

## Players give DeFreitas cold shoulder

### Foster's scare

Neil Foster, the England fast bowler, turned an ankle yesterday during net practice for the Cornhill Test against Sri Lanka at Lord's starting today. Foster, who has been England's leading bowler in his two matches this summer, taking nine wickets against West Indies, had to return to the pavilion for treatment but expects to be fit for today's match.

Peter Hartley is fit to resume after injury, in place of Dennis, and Love returns for Sharp. Needham replaces Embury for Middlesex and Hughes is included, although whether he or Tufnell are

selected will depend on the Headingley pitch.

Kallicharran will make his first county championship appearance since June for Warwickshire against Worcestershire. Kallicharran and Paul Smith have recovered from broken fingers, but Merrick, the West Indian fast bowler, is again ruled out and his place goes to Donald. Reeve will open at Worcester.

Sussex include three wicketkeepers against Kent Speight, the Durham University student, aged 20, coming in at Maidstone, although Moores is likely to remain behind the stumps while Speight and Gould will have purely batting duties. Penn, the fast bowler, returns for the championship leaders after

shoulder and back problems. Clinton, the Surrey opening batsman, returns against Lancashire at the Oval after a thigh injury, with Bullen likely to be twelfth man.

Jeffries, the Hampshire fast bowler, has recovered from a chest muscle injury to face Somerset at Taunton.

Hampshire retain Scott for Robin Smith after his maiden century against the Sri Lankans this week. Ayling, Chris Smith, Parks and Bakker all return after injury.

### Keeping the faith

David Hughes, who has led Lancashire over the past two seasons, has been re-appointed captain next season and the county has also offered Jack Simmons, aged 48, a contract.

Miss Piggott given short term licence

The Jockey Club has granted Maureen Piggott a temporary trainer's licence following the serious injuries sustained by her mother, Susan, in a riding accident on Friday.

Miss Piggott, aged 27, has achieved notable success riding in three-day events, representing Britain in important international competition on three occasions.

The Jockey Club accepted that Miss Piggott had effectively been assistant trainer to her mother at Eve Lodge stables since her father, Lester, was jailed on tax evasion charges last October.

Miss Piggott reported yesterday that there was little change in the condition of her mother, who remains seriously ill at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

"She's much the same, but going in the right direction," Miss Piggott said.

Racing, pages 34-35

## Anchorage says yes

Residents of Anchorage have backed the Alaskan city's plan to host the 1994 winter Olympics. The venue will be chosen by the International Olympic Committee at Seoul on September 15.

Voters supported a referendum to guarantee the financing of the games by the city by a two-to-one margin. The other contenders are Sofia, Ostersund-Are, in Sweden, and Lillehammer, in Norway.

## Samoan no

Western Samoa has dropped its request to New Zealand to allow two Samoan-born All Blacks, Michael Jones and John Schuster, to join the islanders' tour of Wales in October. An official of the Samoan National Rugby Union said it had had done so because it believed the Welsh tour could jeopardise the players' career interests.

## Assault charge

Dino Ciccarelli, an ice hockey player with Minnesota North Stars, was convicted of assaulting a player with his stick during a NHL game in Toronto last season. He was sentenced to a day in jail and fined \$1,000 (about £600).

## Feaver post

John Feaver, the former Davis Cup player, heads a new Lawn Tennis Association department dealing with all competitive play.

## Tour dates

Australia, the lacrosse world cup holders, play three matches against England during a three-week tour starting on September 21.

FOOTBALL: September 24: Old Trafford, October 1: Goodison Stadium, Herts. October 8: Moscow Park, Surrey.

## Cup unified

This year's County Cup winter tennis championships will be played over the same weekend, December 2 to 4, for the first time ever.

## Cup extension

Neale Fraser, Australia's Davis Cup tennis captain since 1970, was reappointed to a further two-year term yesterday. Fraser has captained Australia to four cup victories.

## Sprint record

Erika Salumay broke her own world sprint record at the Soviet Union championships in Moscow yesterday. She was timed in 11.210sec for the final 200 metres, slicing 0.22sec off the previous best she set there a year ago.

## Johnson plan

Toronto (AFP) - Ben Johnson, the world 100 metres champion, may head for Japan next week to complete his Olympic training. Johnson, beaten by Carl Lewis, Calvin Smith and Dennis Mitchell in Zurich and Cologne last week, said: "Those defeats don't alter my confidence. I'm more determined than ever to win in Seoul," he said. "He needs to relax," Charlie Francis, his coach, said.

## END COLUMN

## Schools expose a gulf in thinking

From Simon Barnes  
Barbados

In this week when the England cricket team search for their lost identity against Sri Lanka, I have been watching England and the West Indies play cricket and competing on more or less equal terms. The England bowlers were just as quick, the England batsmen hit the ball just as hard. The English players went into their games with absolutely no defensiveness. That, in itself, was worth travelling 5,000 miles for.

The players were schoolboys, aged 18 at most. And the England boys were up to it. This was the Sir Garfield Sobers tournament, which involved three Barbadian school sides, three from Trinidad and Tobago, and six from England. And it left you wondering what on earth happens to cricketers between the ages of 18 and 23 that makes the gap between English and West Indian cricket so immense?

Let us take Barbados alone. It is not small, it is ridiculously small: 21 miles long, 166 square miles, and a population of a quarter-million. Sherborne School, from England, managed to beat Combermere, one of the top Bajan schools. But Barbados would be a match for any English county. Indeed, I would back Barbados to beat England.

## Countries rely on youth policy

"Any country is as good as its youth policy," Wes Hall said at the presentation ceremony. Hall is Minister for Sport and Tourism, as well as being a former deliverer of pace like fire. That does not say a great deal about youth policies in England.

"Our boys seem to mature earlier," Hall said. Sobers, another Bajan, was saying the same thing. "West Indies young cricketers come on faster," he said.

No one who watched Curtly Ambrose this summer will dispute that. "We give them more exposure, and we give it sooner. We play them when we see the ability there. But we don't play them just to give them experience - we play them because they are good. That just doesn't seem to happen in England, and it is one of the big differences between our cricket and yours."

The Bajan top schoolboys are already playing very good club cricket, and there is a seamless transition from club to Shell Shield cricket for Barbados. One of the Bajan schoolboys in last year's competition had already played for Barbados, nor was this spectacularly unusual.

It is the Matt Busby principle, the principle of Manchester United and the Busby Babes, founded on the notion: If they're good enough, they're old enough.

"The coaching here is not much different to yours in England," Sobers said. "If there is a difference in batting techniques, we teach that the bat is the first line of defence, and England seem to use the pad first. But we don't teach any go-for-broke philosophy. We teach our boys to defend properly."

## Talent flies out of the window

The English coaching, in the public schools, and where it actually happens, in the clubs, is also likely to be very good. But how much English talent flies out of the window between 18 and 23?

It is not that cricket is for a Bajan "a way out of the ghetto." There are plenty of alternative professions; and, for that matter, dozens of different sports on this island.

But, at the same time, cricket has an importance here which nothing else can quite match. CLR James said that cricket was the only unifying factor in the Caribbean. A Uruguayan went further, talking of his own national sport: "Other countries have their history. We have our football." Any Bajan would understand that.

Michael Manley, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, has published a history of West Indian cricket: "That a Prime Minister gives such importance to the sport says all you could wish about the importance of cricket to the West Indies."

The West Indies, and Barbados, perhaps more than any other island, have established a tradition of remarkable cricketing excellence. And as I saw this week, the 18-year-olds are already a part of that tradition.

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